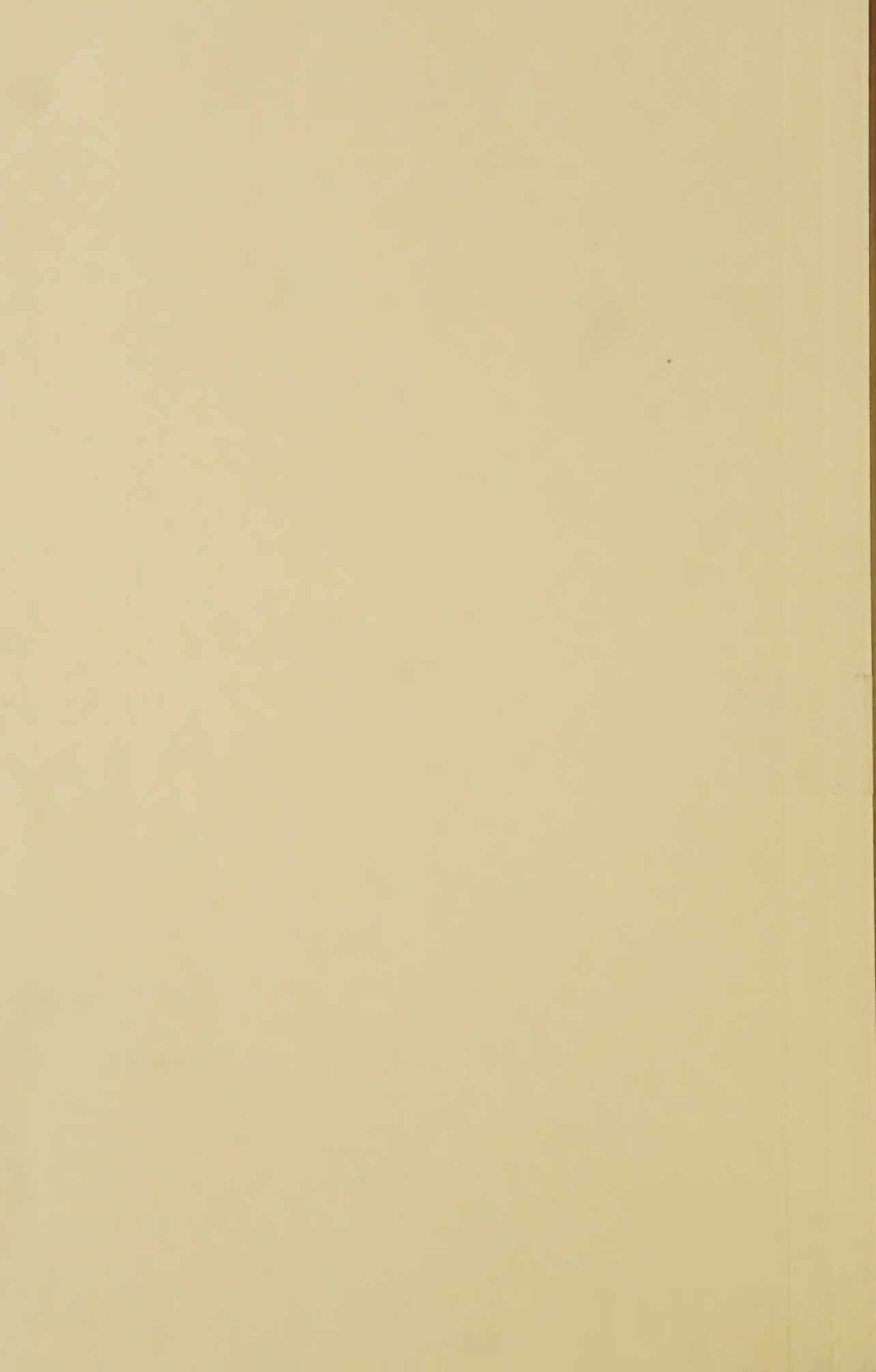


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MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

JULY, 1878.

GOOD and evil are pretty evenly distributed over the world. No country or clime enjoys all the good, and none endures all the evil. In England, after days of drizzle, we clapped our hands at the prospect of a sunny day; and on returning from California, made one of a large company that, at Omaha, rushed from the cars, and with extended hands and uplifted faces drank in with thankfulness the falling drops of rain, the first enjoyed for months. Nations, like individuals, are selfish. Each would like to produce everything that is "pleasant to the sight or good for food"—the Orange, the Banana, the Bread Fruit, the Cocoanut, the Sugar and Cotton of the South, and the Apple, the Pear, the Plum, the Currants and Gooseberries, the Grasses and Grains that succeed best in northern latitudes,—all, in fact, that could add to its wealth and comfort.

Why cannot Hyacinths be grown here as well as in Holland?—Why not become finer every year, instead of poorer? inquires a correspondent. Simply because Nature has otherwise ordained. The soil and climate of Holland seem peculiarly fitted for this product, added to which, the good Hollanders have ages of experience, and will continue to produce Holland Bulbs and Dutch Cheese for the world as long as time endures,—and perhaps Schnapps too. Many hundreds of letters have we written, telling anxious inquirers all we knew about opium growing, but the little opium produced

in this country has been of a very poor quality, and probably cost all it was worth. India and Turkey will no doubt continue the principal producers of opium for ages yet to come, no matter what other nations may do to rob them of this industry.

Several attempts have been made to introduce the culture of Tea into this country, and the government, we understand, is sending out Tea plants; but while we may forbid the Chinaman to land upon our shores, fearing the effects of cheap labor, we can never prevent this cheap labor from growing cheap Tea, which the world will be glad to buy and drink. But machinery—we may invent some machinery that will lessen the labor required in producing Tea. Possibly; but how long before the Japanese and Chinese would have the same, and still beat us with their cheap labor?

This attempt to introduce the cultivation of opium and similar products in this country is nothing new. It was attempted more than a century since, and has been continued with more or less energy ever since; but the results have not been at all satisfactory. It is well to struggle after the greatest possible good, even though we sometimes strive for the unattainable; in doing so, however, persons often neglect the greater good easily within reach. Building castles in the air, they lose all taste for sublunary architecture. How many ingenious men of our day, who might have blessed this world, have

wrecked all of life upon perpetual motion, or a flying machine, as many of the ancients did upon the Philosopher's stone that was to transmute the baser metals to gold.

The most promising new culture to which attention has been directed recently, is beet culture for sugar; and while we are still anxious that this should have a fair trial, we are far more desirous that the American farmer should grow Beets and Turnips and other roots for stock. Of success here, there is no question. With millions of acres now comparatively uncultivated suitable for the growth of sugar cane, it is questionable whether we should neglect to use the advantages we possess, to engage in expedients for the production of sugar to which nations not so favored are compelled to resort. We have in our library the Proceedings of an English Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, Arts and Commerce published in 1760. From this we make several extracts, so that our readers may be able to judge of the results after more than a hundred years have passed.

PREMIUMS proposed by the Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture and Trade.

WINES.—As producing wines in our American colonies will be of great advantage to those colonies, and also to this kingdom; it is proposed to give to that planter, in any of our said colonies, who shall first produce (within seven years from the 5th day of April, 1758) from his own plantation, five tons of white or red wine, made of grapes, the product of the colonies only, and such as, in the opinion of competent judges, appointed by the Society in London, shall be deemed deserving the reward, not less than one ton thereof to be imported at London, 100 l.

OPIUM.—There being reason to believe that the true species of poppy, from which the best sort of opium is extracted, may be cultivated to advantage in some of our Southern colonies upon the continent of North-America, a premium of 2 s. 6 d. will be given for every pound weight of opium (equal in goodness to the best Turkey opium) imported into the port of London from the said colonies, between the 25th of March, 1761, and the 25th of March, 1762, upon proof being made by proper certificates of the Governor, or other Chief Officers of the said colonies respectively, or by other attestations to the satisfaction of the Society, that such opium has been bona fide extracted from poppies of the actual growth and production of such colonies.

Note, The best process or method of making Turkey opium is as follows, viz.

When the heads of the poppies are near ripe, but yet soft and full of juice, make four or five

incisions with a knife about half round the poppy-head, and from each of these there will flow a few drops of milky juice, which soon hardens into a solid confidence, and is to be carefully scraped off the next day with a blunt knife, and is the finest opium; the opposite side of the head is to be wounded, and the opium scraped off the next day in the same manner. If the heads are wounded in the morning, it may be scraped off in the evening.

After all the opium is collected, it is to be beat or worked upon a hard board with a little water for some time, and then formed into cakes or rolls, and dried for sale.

CINNAMON TREE.—The true cinnamon tree having been found to grow and produce good cinnamon in the island of Guadaloupe, and there being no doubt but that, under the same circumstances of soil and situation between the tropics, it would prosper equally well in others of his Majesty's colonies; the Society do offer to the person who shall, in any other of his Majesty's colonies, within five years from the date hereof, raise or plant, cultivate, and properly secure the greatest number of cinnamon trees, not less than 200, 100 l.

RAISINS.—To the person in any of our American colonies, who shall first raise and cure, from his own plantation, and import into the port of London, within six years from the 25th of March, 1759, five hundred pounds weight of good raisins, 50 l.

SILK.—The production of silk in our American colonies being undoubtedly a proper object of encouragement, as it must tend greatly to the advantage of those colonies, and prove highly beneficial to the mother country, by promoting a very valuable branch of its manufactures; in order to forward the same, by such bounties as may operate, in equal proportion, to the benefit of the poorest as well as the richest planter, the Society propose to give for every pound weight of cocoons, produced in the province of Georgia in the year 1760, of hard, weighty, and good substance, wherein one worm only has spun, three pence.

Note, These premiums will be paid under the direction of Mr. Ottoblonghe, Superintendent of the silk culture in Georgia. In Pennsylvania, by Benjamin Franklin, LL.D, and John Hughes, Esq.

COCHINEAL.—For the greatest quantity of cochineal, not less than 25 lb. weight, properly cured, that shall first be produced from any plantation or plantations, by any planter in South-Carolina, within the space of three years from the 25th of April, 1759, 100 l.

For the second greatest quantity, 50 l.

CLIMBING PLANTS.

In our last we described a few of the best Hardy Climbers, and now add only one more to this section of the family of Climbing plants, and one omitted for want of space, not from any want of appreciation. We refer to the

ARISTOLOCHIA SIPHO, (Dutchman's Pipe.)

This is really one of the best of the Climbers. It is perfectly hardy, growing far North with perfect freedom. The leaves are large, often six inches in diameter, of a fine texture and tint, and so abundant as to conceal both branches and trellis, and form almost an impenetrable shade. The flowers are not very brilliant, the colors



ARISTOLOCHIA SIPHO.

being brownish or purple, but are interesting from their curious form, which gives the plant its common and well-known name, *Dutchman's Pipe*. Plants can be set out either in the autumn or the spring, and scarcely feel a check by transplanting, usually in a good soil making a rapid growth from the first.

ANNUAL CLIMBERS.

The plants previously described, of course, require several years of favorable growth before they afford much shade or beauty, but when once established the work is done for life. In almost every garden there are unsightly places that it is desirable to conceal or beautify at once; fortunately, Nature, with her usual forethought and bountiful liberality, has furnished us with what we need, and in abundance. Seeds to be obtained for five or ten cents, in a few weeks will cover rods of wall or trellis with foliage and flowers of the greatest beauty. We call attention to a few of the best of these useful Annual Climbers.

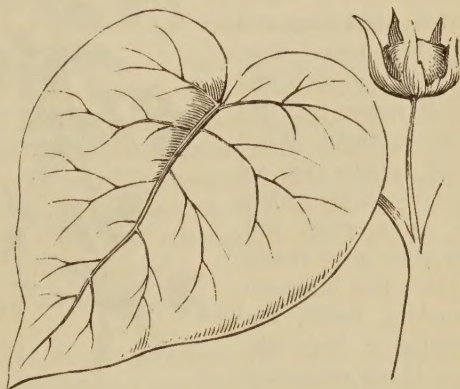
CONVOLVULUS MAJOR.

The old Morning Glory (*Convolvulus major*), is the best known and most popular, and all things considered, perhaps, the best Annual Climber we have. The seeds germinate so readily that they can be grown in the garden in any corner where the plants are needed, and when established one year plants sufficient for



CONVOLVULUS PLANT AND FLOWER.

future use are generally secured from self-sown seeds. The flowers we need tell no one are beautiful, and of a great variety of colors. Their growth is so rapid that they cover an arbor or trellis in a very short time, though it is important that support should be supplied as soon as the young plants show a disposition to run, for if this is neglected too long they will not readily attach themselves. The only fault that can be urged against the *Convolvulus* is

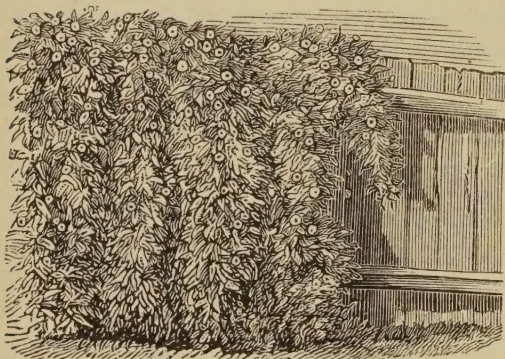


CONVOLVULUS LEAF AND SEED-POD.

the fact that its flowers are open only in the early part of the day, the brightest about sunrise, but a sight of a good "patch" of these flowers of a "dewy morn" is a feast for a whole day, and quite enough to tempt any lover of the beautiful to rise early to see and enjoy their glory. Indeed, we have known several fits of early rising induced by the beauty of the

Morning Glory, and yet, we are glad to say, without serious results.

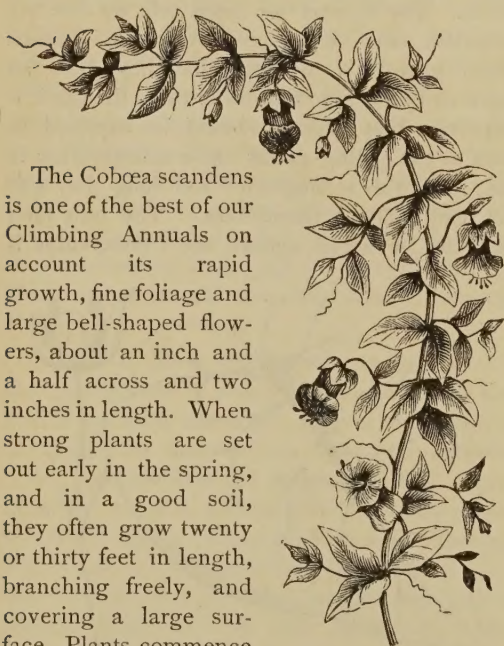
The engravings show the flower very much reduced in size, with a plant as it appears when climbing a string or wire, also a leaf, with seed-pod of natural size. We could not refrain from giving a view also of an old fence partially covered with the Morning Glory, which we met



SCREEN OF CONVULVULUS.

in our wanderings, last season. The fence was low, little care had been given in providing support or training the plants. They had grown wildly, yet formed a wonderful mass of beauty.

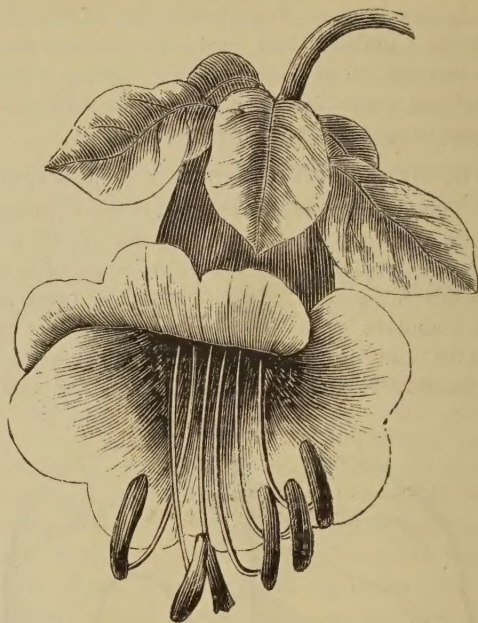
COBÆA SCANDENS.



BRANCH OF COBÆA.

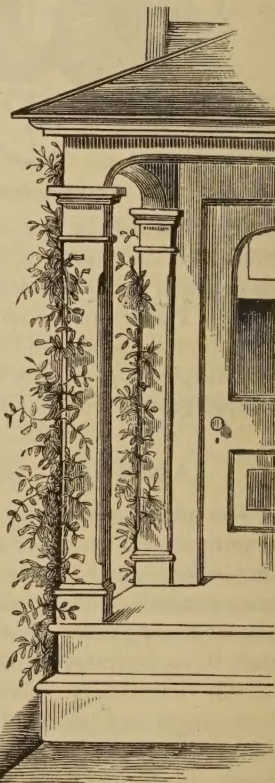
The Cobæa scandens is one of the best of our Climbing Annuals on account its rapid growth, fine foliage and large bell-shaped flowers, about an inch and a half across and two inches in length. When strong plants are set out early in the spring, and in a good soil, they often grow twenty or thirty feet in length, branching freely, and covering a large surface. Plants commence to flower when quite young and continue in bloom until removed or killed by frost. In the autumn, plants can be taken up with care, potted, and removed to the house where they will flourish and flower during the winter. The flowers are at first green, but gradually change to a deep violet blue. There is but one objection to this plant. Seeds will not germinate under unfavorable circum-

stances, like the Morning Glory, but require care and favorable conditions, and much suc-



FLOWER OF COBÆA SCANDENS.

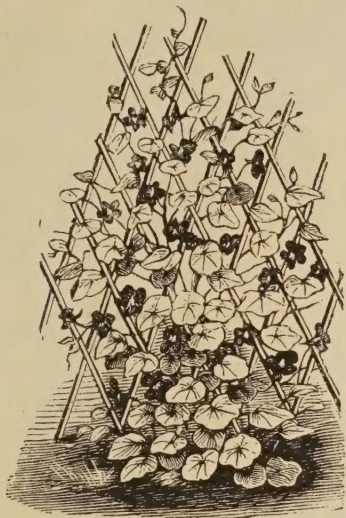
cess is not to be anticipated by sowing seed in the open ground. It is best to start them in pots in the house, or in a hot-bed. Place them in moist earth, edge down, and do not water until the young plants appear above the surface, unless the pots are in a warm place and the earth becomes exceedingly dry. Cobæas set in a row two feet apart, supported by brush six feet high, make an elegant screen. Many florists and nurserymen grow young plants in pots, and keep them for sale in the spring. Our engravings show a branch, of course, much reduced, a flower nearly of natural size, and young plants attached to the columns of a porch, as they appeared early in July last. Later in the season the foliage was denser, and the flowers more abundant.



COBÆA FOR PILLARS.

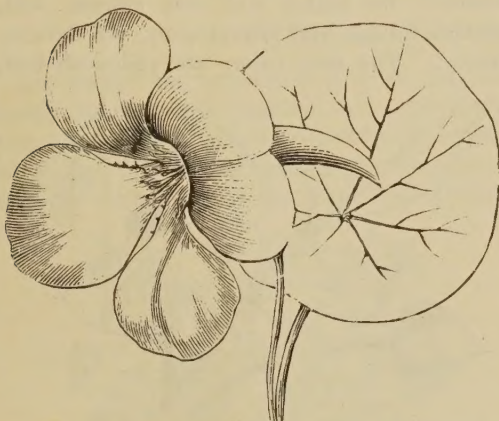
TROPÆOLUM MAJUS.

The Tropæolums, or as they are generally called, Nasturtiums, are very good annual Climbers, comprising several varieties, differing very much both in flower and leaf. In some the leaves are a bright lively green and in others quite dark, and the form is also much varied.



TROPÆOLUM ON TRELLIS.

The engraving of a portion of trellis shows the habit of the plant. The engraving of flower and leaf is about one-third natural size. The little yellow Tropæolum, *Canary Flower*, as called, because of some fancied resemblance in form as well as color to this popular singing bird, is an interesting and beautiful variety. Seed may be sown in the open ground in the

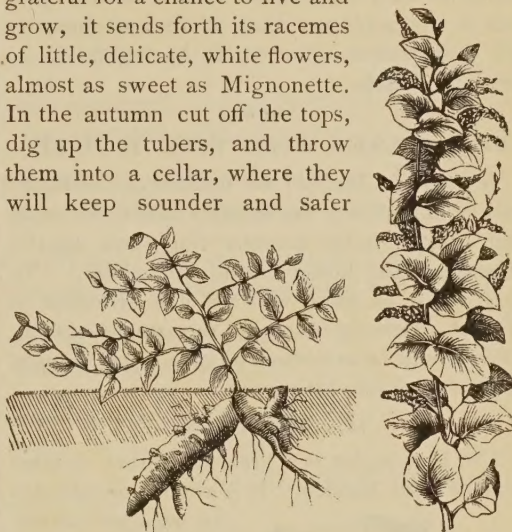


TROPÆOLUM FLOWER AND LEAF.

spring, or may be grown in pots in the house or hot-bed. Although we write now of plants suitable for out-door culture, we may as well state that the Tropæolums grow freely from cuttings, and are admirable for the house in winter, and for large baskets and vases; and particularly for hanging baskets in the open ground are not surpassed by any plant we are acquainted with.

THE MADEIRA VINE.

The Madeira Vine, although a tender, tuberous plant, bearing a root or tuber very much like a Potato, in the hands of the gardener and florist is as handy as the annual Climbers, for soon after planting its thick, glossy, almost transparent leaves appear, and by mid-summer it climbs to a remarkable height. It certainly is one of the most beautiful of the Climbers, and as useful as beautiful, because it will bear almost any kind of treatment, without saying a word. Plant the tuber out of doors in the spring, and it commences to grow at once, and if in a warm, sheltered place, very rapidly, until its slender branches, covered with pretty leaves, have climbed nearly a score of feet over pillar and porch; and then towards autumn, as though grateful for a chance to live and grow, it sends forth its racemes of little, delicate, white flowers, almost as sweet as Mignonette. In the autumn cut off the tops, dig up the tubers, and throw them into a cellar, where they will keep sounder and safer



MADEIRA VINE PLANT AND BRANCH.

than Potatoes; or, take up the plants carefully, pot them, remove them to the house, and they will bear the heat, dust and smoke of the worst living room imaginable, with perhaps only a pitiful look of remonstrance from their sensitive leaves, while anything like decent usage will cause a smile of satisfaction, from the root to the tiniest leaflet.

CYPRESS VINE.

One of the prettiest and most delicate of the flowering Climbers is the Cypress Vine, (*Ipomœa Quamoclit*.) The foliage is exceedingly delicate, and the flowers are Trumpet-shaped, of the size shown in the engraving, and scarlet, rose and white. Seed should be planted in the spring, as soon as the weather becomes warm, if in a sheltered place all the better. As soon as the plants make their appearance strings or wires should be provided, and in a rich soil, a little sheltered from the North and West winds, the little Cypress will climb

up its support eight or ten feet, and make a screen unsurpassed for delicacy and beauty. Indeed, one of the prettiest objects that we ob-



served last season was a screen of the Scarlet Ipomœa covering a porch, in this city, and cared for by a lady whose fingers seem to possess a magic power that vivify and beautify all they touch. We regret having failed to secure a sketch.

FOR VASES AND THE HOUSE.

A class of Climbers too delicate for ordinary garden culture are exceedingly useful for vases and baskets in the summer time, and equally effective in the house during the winter. To only a few of these will we call attention at present, reserving others for the autumn season, when it will be necessary to give some thought to plants suitable for winter.

MAURANDYA.

The Maurandya is a graceful, rather slender climber from Mexico. It is almost too delicate

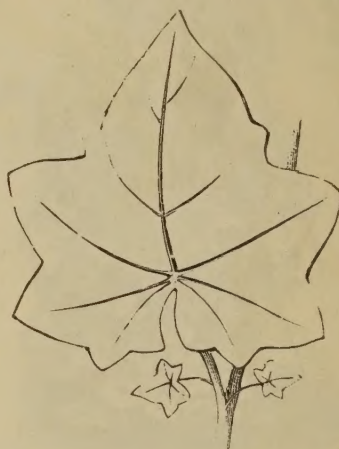


for out-door culture in the Northern and Middle States, but does remarkably well for baskets, vases, etc., in sheltered positions. Plants should be grown in the hot-bed or green-house, and if designed for the garden, should

not be put out until the weather is quite warm; late in the spring or early summer. Few climbers do better for house culture. The growth of the plant is five or six feet, and the foliage is abundant, a very desirable trait in a climbing plant, as half the beauty, at least, of a climbing plant is its foliage. The flowers of the Maurandya, however, are of good size and form and color, being about the size and appearance of Digitalis, and the colors different shades of blue, white and mauve, and the whole plant is pleasant to look upon.

GERMAN IVY.

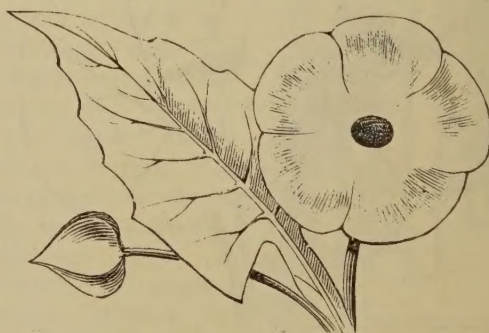
The German Ivy, though called an Ivy, is not a member of the Ivy family at all, but is a *Senecio*, (*S. scandens*.) The leaves, are somewhat of the form of the Ivy, but are light green, smooth, and almost transparent. It makes a wonderful growth, and in the course of a few weeks, when soil, &c., are favorable, and in this it is not very particular, will threaten



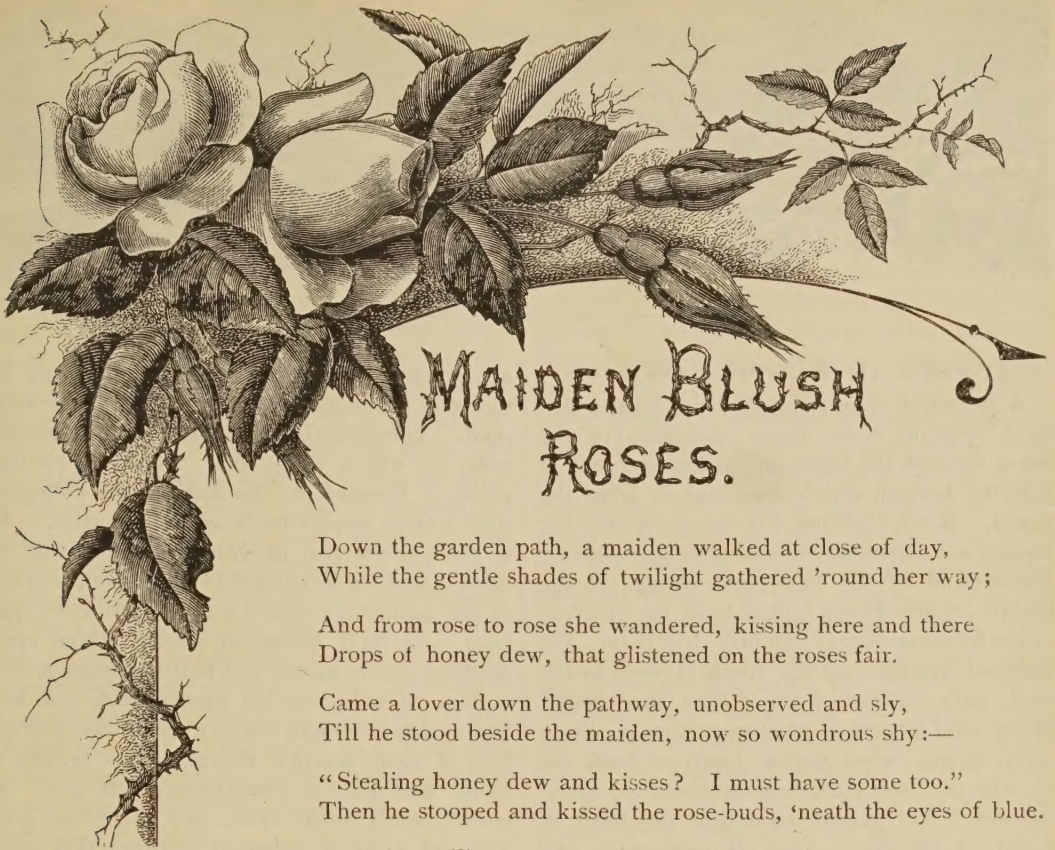
to over-run every thing within reach. For a vase or hanging basket, or for any place where it is desirable to obtain a wealth of foliage in a short time, few things can equal the German Ivy. For a winter plant it is excellent, but must have plenty of water. It will grow well from cuttings.

THUNBERGIA.

The Thunbergia is one of the prettiest little Climbers, for basket and vase culture, with pleasant foliage and conspicuous, yet delicate flowers. The only colors are yellowish buff,



orange and white, and most of the varieties have a large dark eye which gives the flower more than half its beauty. The seed germinates rather slowly; so it is best to start the plants where they will get considerable heat, if possible. After they begin to come the growth is quite rapid. Plants are easily started from cuttings, and can usually be purchased of florists, though any one can grow them from seed.



Down the garden path, a maiden walked at close of day,
While the gentle shades of twilight gathered 'round her way;

And from rose to rose she wandered, kissing here and there
Drops of honey dew, that glistened on the roses fair.

Came a lover down the pathway, unobserved and sly,
Till he stood beside the maiden, now so wondrous shy:—

“Stealing honey dew and kisses? I must have some too.”
Then he stooped and kissed the rose-buds, 'neath the eyes of blue.

And they say the smiling roses caught the blushes red,
As the maiden, in confusion, bent her dainty head;

And next day the children wondered, why the roses light
Had turned red as crimson blushes, in one single night.

Columbus, Wis.

LYDIA F. HINMAN.

TUBEROUS-ROOTED BEGONIA.

Our readers are acquainted with the Begonia family, so deservedly popular, and particularly with the Rex varieties, which bear such beautiful foliage. Within a few years a new section has been introduced to the floral world, called



Bulbous, or Tuberous-rooted Begonias, from the fact that they bear tubers, which can be taken up in the autumn and stored like those of the Dahlia or Gladiolus, until planting time in the spring. Believing this class to be destined

for great usefulness, we take pleasure in presenting in our new colored plate specimens of three fine varieties, representing different habits, 1 and 2 being compact, erect plants, eighteen inches in height, with masses of small flowers, and 3 a taller variety with large, drooping flowers.

The Begonia grows from a foot to thirty inches in height, is of a good, compact habit, and is an excellent bedding plant, not only on this account, but because it is never without flowers, and bears the hottest sun without a word of complaint. In Northern climates it is well to pot the bulbs, so as to give them a good start before setting out. Indeed, this would be good practice any where at present. Our engravings show the large-flowered plant and the appearance of the bulbs, the latter being from one to three inches across.





FLOWERS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

A beautiful country inspires patriotism, just as a beautiful home takes possession of the heart, through the fancy, and makes one content with the horizon which shuts him in from the world. North Carolina has scenery within her bounds not surpassed in beauty or grandeur by Switzerland or the Tyrol, and strong are the tendrils of attachment which bind her children to her however distant fate may drift them. On the bold hillsides, up the rocky ravines, in the cool, dark valleys of the "Pine Tree State" bloom wild flowers in greatest profusion. From early spring, when yellow Jasmynes load the air with perfume, there is a succession of spontaneous flower growth to delight the heart of florist or botanist. Pink Honeysuckles, fair Hawthorn blossoms, Ivy and Box heart leaves, and Pipsissiwa embroider the green earth and scent the atmosphere. The wild Laurel encroaches on the Bay trees, whose white, resinous scented flowers are fringed by young maidens as "love tokens," and "miniature Magnolias;" but the Laurel blooms are far more beautiful, springing forth in fascicles of flowers, whose wheel-form corollas are pale pink, speckled with maroon.

"The LORD of Light,
Who rules the hours,
Has scattered through this sunny land
Mementoes of His love, in flowers,
With lavish hand.

"They bloom in beauty everywhere,
And more than wonted sweets display,
As conscious of the parts they bear,
Through laughing May."

Stars of Bethlehem, crimson Cacti, Golden Rod and Daisies white "paint in living gems her sward." In North Carolina every fence is adorned with Blackberry vines.

"It grew there, just so, in my childhood;
None knew how it came, but they said
God planted the seed with his finger,
And straightway it sprang from the bed."

The Blackberry vines and blossoms are not only ornamental, the fruit they bear is a source of large income to the old North State. They

are gathered and dried by the million, and in that way put money into the pockets of the very poor. They are also made into wine, jam and jelly, in which shape they command paying prices. Greensboro, the seat of two colleges, does a large export trade in Blackberries. It is the western part of North Carolina that is most famed for its natural beauties—the region of the mountains—the "Pilot," "Hickory Nut Gap" and Bald Mountain, among whose cool grottoes native arbors and hurtling crags grows a flora of indescribable exquisiteness. A fall trip in that mountain country seems the realization of some seraphic dream,—you breathe a bland and golden atmosphere, you gaze on tender, softly tinted skies, and the forest presents an array of splendid coloring that only a RUBENS could reproduce on canvass. On the French Broad, in the mountain country, they raise Ginseng, which they export to China, where it is used as Americans use Tobacco. Ginseng is a handsome plant of eighteen inches, with one stem and some twenty leaves on top. Up there also great quantities of Buckwheat are grown, while as many as sixty bushels of wheat to the acre have been harvested. The eastern part of the State is peculiarly favorable to the culture of Peaches, Pears and Apples, and the appearance of the orchards in spring is

"Beautiful as April,
When he hangs his light green shield
Upon the dark clad forests of the South,
And in his dewy mantle comes to kiss
The blush upon the cheek of queenly May,
Or plume with feathery ash her spotless brow."

—MRS. V. D. COVINGTON, *Hernando, Miss.*

BREAD UPON THE WATERS.

MR. VICK:—An article in the April number of your MONTHLY, signed FAITH HARPER, has brought to my mind memories which incline me to write to you. At the time your generous offer of flower seeds was made, my home was in Wisconsin, and my husband being a subscriber for the *Genesee Farmer*, I applied for some seeds, sowed them according to directions, with but little faith in their amounting to much,

but they came up finely, and my Asters, Balsams and Ten-Weeks Stocks were as fine as I have ever seen, not at all inferior to those of the present day, while some Carnation Poppies were almost equal to the Carnation Pink itself. It would be impossible to tell the amount of pleasure derived from that one package of flower seeds. I have never been without at least one flower bed since, and now have quite a garden. I also do a little at window gardening, and must tell you of my Hoya, as I sometimes wonder you do not recommend it for house culture. Mine is eight years old, has nine or ten branches, the longest twenty-nine feet, the others ranging from six to twenty-five feet; it blossoms freely four or five months of the year, has never been troubled with any kind of insect, and seems very hardy, bearing all sorts of ill treatment. I have, too, a striped Petunia, from seed you sent me, that has given much satisfaction. It nearly fills one window, has been in blossom since the first of February, and for several weeks has had from sixty to seventy-five flowers on it at a time. I am much pleased with your MONTHLY, and hope it will be well sustained. Please tell us at what time bulbs of the Lily of the Valley should be taken up for winter flowering. — MRS. F. B., *West Salisbury, Vermont.*

Allow the Lily of the Valley to remain in the ground as long as possible before potting for winter flowering, say late in November, just before the ground freezes up for good.

AN EDITOR'S GARDEN.

MR. VICK:—It will be an old story to you, but I must tell what came of the generous package of bulbs that, with your compliments, surprised us by express one day last autumn. It so happened we had plenty of room for them in an oval border eight by twelve feet, and before night they were snugly bedded and blanketed for a winter's sleep. Their waking was a matter of interest to a large circle, and even more a pleasureable surprise than the unpacking of the labeled brown bulbs, each as full of promise as a nut of meat. First, and very early, say about the 8th of March—on the 10th we gathered Liverwort in the woods—a few venturesome Crocuses peered out from the sunny edge, and after the very cold weather following, some scattering Snowdrops, always chary of their white bloom. Fearing more cold, we uncovered gradually, but when at last the litter was cleared away and the bed made up neatly, there started up a troop of the liveliest, cheeriest Crocuses, in purple, yellow, buff, lavender, and white, with lines and markings like dainty printed cambrics made up into spring suits. These were in double rank near

the margin of the border, which being near a curve in the fence where two roads go their ways, made a bright point of attraction for us all as we passed to and fro many times a day, and for our neighbors and town folks as well. With and after them, stood up the Hyacinths in their perfumed robes of cream, white, flesh, rose, blue and purple, and they were a wonder and a delight, and won all hearts by their elegant beauty.

When the Tulips followed, they quite took our breath away! We thought we knew all about Tulips before, having a “ring around a rosy”—no, a “piny”—of yellow striped ones, and a clump of scarlet and blue-eyed pinks, all single, in a warm house-corner, to give us early greeting. We rather looked down on them, though they would do for an early bit of color in the grass when nothing else was to be had; but these!—it is impossible to describe the gorgeous richness of their colorings, or to tell which of all the varieties pleased us most. We said when the low, single, white ones made their appearance so early, and held so long in bud and bloom, we should never care for any other Tulips than those; they were picturesque and tender, and answered to an ideal. Then we liked so well the lemon-yellow and the creams of the same type, we thought it would be hard not to include them. When those great bouncing, roystering Duc Van Thols astonished us by their doubleness and splendor of scarlet and yellow, we took them into decided favor; and when the blazing, satiny scarlets, and dark, velvety crimsons, and the whites and shaded yellows, all so very large and compactly double, came late and regal, we fairly succumbed to the Tulip mania, and entered into full sympathy with the Dutchman. At this writing three or four, in as many colors, still stand to mark the glory that has departed. There was no end the homage paid to them by the public,—but alas! they excited the cupidity of some sneak thief who leaped the paling in the night and took several away, leaving the blossoms and buds—what a pity that any bud should fail of its unfolding—prone on the ground. The Lilies and Gladioli in their many varieties are yet to come, and henceforth this bed, which now by special favor tenants a few Pansies, Pinks and Phloxes, is to be held sacred to the bulbifera; and we mean to contrive to keep it abloom, if possible, the season through.

If it will do your benevolent heart good to know how much pleasure that box of bulbs has conferred,—and your professional mind, to know of the enlightenment to the community—why, take it as a drop in the bucket of similar praises.—ED. LAWS OF LIFE, *Dansville, N. Y.*

THE WILD FLOWERS.

Seeing the columns of your MONTHLY are open to the correspondence of all lovers of Nature's beauties, the flowers, I ask of you to accept my simple letter, hoping that others may benefited by your answers and notes as well as myself. The pleasure it is to me to read my Monthly Visitor, your Floral MONTHLY, you can have no conception. I only regret that it does not come oftener. I am of Persian parentage, born in the Eden of Western Asia, and there, in the arms of a fond mother, surrounded with Oriental splendor, listening to the stories of Oriental tradition, I was impressed with the so fabulous Persian love of flowers, and now,

"When wandering in the golden eve,
I roam, in search of wild flowers;
When viewing the green of the leaves,
In the radiance of the sun's declining hour,
'Tis then that mem'ry softly steals,
And teaches me to worship flowers,
As taught in by-gone days."

Left an orphan through the ravages of war, I found myself in Europe, far away from my native shore, on the Caspian Sea. My love of flowers was heightened by more refined, civilized and cultivated associations. When in Europe, at school, the study of Botany was one of my favorites of the many branches taught, and in this country, I still thought to pursue the same privately; but, alas! in vain. Often, when rambling the forest, I would find some wild floral beauty, but on asking for its name, all that I heard was, "It's only a weed—it is a poison weed," or "vine." I therefore left off my searches and studies, yet still I could not help admiring those so called "weeds" and "poison vines."

In your March number I notice an engraving with a description of the Yucca plant, which I found wild and plentiful in Northern Louisiana, Eastern Texas and parts of Mississippi, never having been East of these States. Often have I asked information about and the name of this plant, and urged its cultivation for its somewhat tropical appearance, when I was told that it was nothing but "Bear-grass, and fit for nothing."

Again, there are three or four different vines, all called "Poison vines," "Cow-itch," and other abusive names. I observe, however, that there is a marked difference that I think it not more than justice to the vines and flowers to correct (if correction it be,) others as best I can. In your April number, I see in "Flowers in North Mississippi," where your correspondent writes, "In the woods in summer and fall, with graceful tendrils draping dead trees, is the Cow-itch Vine, bearing blossoms shaped like the Mimulus (Monkey Flower) of the richest flame color with orange throat, and dark-color-

ed stamens—a magnificent treacherous beauty, poisoning the flesh of all who touch it." It may be somewhat poisonous, but I have never experienced any poisoning of this vine and flower, and it is a great favorite of mine. I think Mrs. V. D. C. is somewhat in error as regards the name, for the Cow-itch Vine is much different, it having only small white blossoms in bunches, which are succeeded by a cluster of black, shot-like berries, while the other vine (above named) has long, bean-like looking pods. The leaves also differ, being much darker green with purplish stems on the under side. In the Cow-itch Vine it does not grow so large and gorgeous, being more of a dwarfish nature than the former. I think the former is what is called the Trumpet Vine.

Again, there is a vine sometimes on the same tree with the other that has an abundance of flowers of the same shape as this, so called, Cow-itch, but of a more dark color, and somewhat fragrant, which some call poison vine, while others give it the name of Cross Vine. Also, a great beauty, hanging in slender tendrils and waving festoons on trees to the height of a hundred feet and more, filling the air with its fragrance, its blossoms showing at the distance like golden stars in delicate drapery. What is it? many would ask, and with awe stand and exclaim, "O, what beauty!" I would suggest that you would give some practical lessons in your MONTHLY, of all wild growth and flowers of this country, and thereby instil a love for the study of the habits of plants, a large addition to the love of flowers. There is a great want of general information, and I think it would give a chance to hear more pleasant and proper names than "weeds," and "poison vines" of our beauties of the forest. Only a page every month would, in the course of time, give a large amount of valuable information that all your readers and the public at large would appreciate. I am sure some of your numerous correspondents will, perhaps, contribute to the general cause.

Only a short time since a specimen of flowers of beautiful carmine colored stars was shown to me to find a name, and after looking in vain, I said, in a jest, "name it only a weed, nameless." In the May number, on page 143, I find the description of "A Beautiful Flower," by E. S. S., that same flower has often drawn my attention, it being plentiful in Northern Louisiana, but never could I find a name for it until I saw the description and illustration of the dear little flower, and it is through your correspondence that I find a name for it, though the name (Cow-slip) does not correspond with its singular beauty.—ALY OMAR, *Ingram's Mills, Miss.*

UNDER THE FIR-TREES.

If any one wants to see Nature, pure and simple, let him come and lose himself in the continuous woods "where rolls the Oregon." For some distance from its mouth the banks of the Columbia and its tributaries are clothed with a dense growth of Fir, alternating here and there with bold precipitous cliffs. Scenery too dark and somber to be termed beautiful, yet these rugged cliffs and these majestic trees seem not unworthy sentinels to have watched the great river through the centuries when it "heard no sound save its own dashings."

We are not quite "lost" out here in the forest, though the bears come to the little stream near by for the Orontium that grows in the shallows, and deer bound through the glades and whistle on the hills. I go out in the dewy morning and look up, up to the giant Firs towering two hundred, three hundred feet above me. I see the snowy flowers of the Dog-wood gleaming among them. The Woodpecker tapping the tree is not the red-headed denizen of the Eastern woods, but a cousin, clad in dark blue and black, and that reedy whistle from the hill-top is a note unheard before. All is strange save the Robins singing under the Fir-trees, just as they used to sing among the Hemlocks of my old Green Mountain home. It is all very new, yet when I look up to these giant trees and count their age by the fallen trunks about me, I feel that it is very old.

This is the chosen abode of Ferns and Mosses, and all things that love shade and moisture. The delicate Maiden Hair, (*Adiantum pedatum*), is abundant, and other Ferns almost as beautiful. Every old log in shady places is a study. First, Mosses of many kinds take possession, and these furnish a home for Ferns of various kinds, vines and creeping and flowering plants innumerable. Besides the Dog-wood, (*Cornus floridus*), there are many other flowering shrubs, the most beautiful being the red-flowering Currant. Of smaller flowers I find as yet nothing new and striking, but many old friends. Trilliums, Convalarias and Uvularias, *C. bifolia* the most delicate, *C. racemosa* the most showy and fragrant.—FANNIE E. BRIGGS, *Laurel, Oregon*.

PANSIES OUR HOBBY.—Pansies are the Oak Park hobby. Thus far I am ahead, and send a sample of what I have in a box accompanying this letter, so that you can see what they are. Those who are competing with me send to England for seed, and I think that you can send me equally as good as any that I can get in England.—MRS. G. E. G., *Oak Park, Ill.*

THE "OFFERING OF FLOWERS."

MR. VICK:—In your MAGAZINE, beautiful, useful and cheap, allow me to say a few words as to a way in which the "ministry of flowers" may be extended to many who cannot purchase seeds or roots for themselves, and whereby, indirectly, we may aid the spirit of religious devotion. We all know, I suppose, how the use of flowers for decorating churches has extended of late. It is not confined to any one denomination either, at least, not in your part of America, if we may judge of what we read of Christmas and Eastertide, and also of "Decoration Day." We may say that in Canada it is only beginning, and it is to be seen only here and there. But their use will, no doubt, spread in spite of unjust, unreasoning prejudice. In the Episcopal and Roman Catholic churches the use of flowers is not looked at from a merely decorative point of view; but as being expressions of religious devotion, and it is to hint how such expressions of devotion may be fostered and extended that I write. In town and country, among the well-to-do mechanics, and others, there are always to be found some who would grow flowers if seeds or roots were given to them, and who would be thankful to be able to offer of their produce for the decoration of God's house. Now, if clergymen, desirous of seeing God's house and altar adorned with flowers, would buy of you, or elsewhere, seeds and roots of the most desirable flowers, and give them to their humbler parishoners, with the proviso that the church is to have a tithe of the flowers, they would find their desires easily met and the love of flowers cultivated, if I may so say, in a Christian spirit of love for God's works and love for God's church.—EPISCOPAL CLERGYMAN, *Canada*.

WINTERING CARNATIONS.—I must tell you how I used my Carnations. In the fall, just before frost came, I took them all up, put them in pots and removed them to the green-house, (which I did not keep running last winter) where they have remained ever since, and now they are literally loaded with buds. It was simply an experiment, with which I am much pleased. Can you tell me why my young Ice Plants are drying up? They came up splendidly, but soon commenced to wither, and finally they all disappeared, with the exception of three or four. I gave them all the care I knew how, but could not get them to live.—S. S., *South Norwalk, Conn.*

The Ice Plants, we think, must have suffered for want of air and sunshine. They "damp off," if kept warm and moist without sufficient air. Carnations are hardy when the plants are young and vigorous, but a little protection will never do harm, and sometimes good.

FINE ZINNIAS.

I am delighted with your MAGAZINE, and have been more than paid the subscription price already, by the remedies published in it for the destruction of insects. I must tell you about a Zinnia I had last summer, a double scarlet with the delightful fragrance of a Tea Rose. Also one with a row of small ones around it, all single. It was odd as well as beautiful. I wish I could persuade every one of your readers to try growing their flowers in rockeries, throwing the rocks in any shape they may wish and filling the crevices with rich soil. I have a large one fashioned after a castle. I have tried every variety of plants on it, and nowhere else do they thrive so luxuriantly. I had a double white Datura which grew to a height of ten feet; also a single white which spread over a space of twenty feet. One of the same in a bed was a slim affair beside it and bore but a few flowers, while the one grown on the rockery had as many as fifty blossoms every evening. To those interested I will give the plan of my rockery.—E. L. R., *Jeffersonville, Ind.*

A COUNTRY PICTURE.

I have been sitting in my easy chair by the window, drinking in the beauty and holiness of this sweet May morning, until my heart is full, and I fain would picture it all here. Something of its beauty, perhaps, I may give, but no pen could impart the sense of restful peace and holiness hovering o'er all around my country home. Earth seems truly a temple of the LORD, and I, with reverent heart, bow in adoration and wonder at the work of His hands.

Just before me, upon the hillside, is an orchard which is beautiful now with leaf and blossom. The morning breezes play in the grass and reveal hidden treasures of Violets and Dandelions—dear delights of childhood's happy days—little floral children, whose perfume and brightness mingle with our thoughts of our little ones. Beyond the orchard, wide stretches of meadow land, and dense masses of trees crowning the hill tops, with here and there a quiet home tucked cozily away, and pastures where motherly cows and sheep feed and roam with frolicsome lambs and calves playing around them.

"Over all, unrolls on high,
The splendid scenery of the sky,"

with white patches of clouds floating away, away.

How beautiful, oh, how beautiful! How full of comfort and good cheer to all who can read aright the messages the spring-time brings! Hear how the birds sing, and see the white petals of the apple blossoms drifting down! I could almost fancy them glimpses of the white

winged angels as they go on missions of love from heaven to earth.

The birds are building their nests now, and the songs they sing are full of hope and thankfulness for what the summer will bring. I never see the mother bird sitting so patiently in her nest, day after day, but I feel the sharp rebuke her patient trust gives our restless human lives. Why cannot we wait and trust as she does? For us, as for her, the morrow is full of promise. If we do our part, as she does her's, all will be well. We so often mar the beautiful germs of manhood and womanhood growing in our souls by our impatient haste. The husbandman does not look for the seed he sows to come to immediate fruition, but waits for the harvest time through weeks of sunshine and shade, through spring rains and summer heat, knowing all is needed and time will bring the reward for his labor and his waiting. Let us learn of the birds, learn of the husbandman greater patience, greater trust.

"It is better to weave in the web of life
A bright and glorious filling;
To do our work with a patient heart,
And hands that are kind and willing,
Than to snap the delicate, minute threads
Of our curious lives asunder,
And then blame God for the tangled ends,
And sit to grieve and wonder."

—EARNEST.

MAY IN GEORGIA.—Some have had green Peas and Potatoes three or four weeks past. The Peaches are as large as Walnuts. Raspberries are ripening, and Strawberries have done finely this season. Farmers will cut Wheat this month, and Oats and Barley are headed out. I have a fine bed of Phlox Drummondii—only one yellow. The Petunias are very fine, and the Roses have all bloomed splendidly. The Spireas were very beautiful. My English Whitethorn was like one mass of snow, about ten or twelve feet high. The Mocking Birds and many others sing so sweetly, and the tiny Humming Bird flits from flower to flower. What a delightful world we have.—D. T. S., *Penfield, Ga.*

GOOD FOR THE PETUNIA.—Among the Petunias, last summer, were some so curiously marked that I think they deserve to be described. One root bore purplish crimson flowers variously blotched with white, some with round and others with heart-shaped spots, many with a nearly perfect V, and some with a good J. One, which is my excuse for writing, was marked with a very plain J V, and the whole bed looked as if you had been carelessly scribbling your initials, and finished by giving us your autograph.—H. C. JOHNSON, *Woodstock, Vt.*

THE MARTYNIA.

A good many years ago I saw a statement in one of your books that the seed-pods of the Martynia were good for pickles, and was tempt-



ed to try them, and have continued to use them ever since. I do not know of anything more

satisfactory for the purpose. The seeds grow nicely, the plants are not troubled with enemies as the Cucumber is, and the crop is very large. I sow the seed the latter



part of May or early in June. The plants are very robust and the flowers large and pretty. The seed-pods are very curious, and must be gathered when they are soft, so that they can be punctured with the finger nail. The flowers and plants are so fine that many grow them in the flower garden.—HOUSEKEEPER.

The variety sown for pickles is *M. proboscidea*. The seed-pods should be gathered before becoming fibrous or "stringy." The flowers grow in clusters, as will be seen by the engraving showing a branch with both flowers and seed-pods. The flower is about one half natural size.

HOW TO PRESERVE CELERY TILL THE FIRST OF MAY.—Take boxes about one and a quarter or one and a half feet in depth, (boxes in which shoes have been packed will answer nicely,) and put a layer of sand and a layer of Celery. See that each layer of Celery is well covered. Also that plenty of the soil is left upon the roots of the bunches when dug. Place in a cool, dry cellar, and give it as much air and light as convenient. Water it once in two or three weeks, and you will have Celery fresh and crisp till the first of May, if you choose to preserve it so long.—J. D. R., *Livonia, N. Y.*

If we understand our correspondent, the Celery is laid horizontally in layers, roots and leaves being all covered. If not, please give us the facts.

OUR CEMETERY.

Why did you try to disgrace us before the whole world? What evil spirit induced you to send your artist to make a picture of our burying ground, which is not what it might be, of course; but who would like a picture made of his kitchen, or pantry, or back yard? I believe in paying proper respect to the living, as well as the dead. Besides, when times get better we think of doing something, in truth, we have been thinking of doing something for a good while; but if those most interested don't complain, I don't see why others should make a fuss about a matter in which they are not particularly interested. Some folks never will be contented to mind their own business; but the folks in our Cemetery are not guilty of this fault, and I guess never were, either. I don't believe they gave their dead friends any better accommodation than we give them. Of course I know what you will say about improvement and increased taste, and all that, but I believe in good manners as well as good taste, and do you think it good manners to hold us up to ridicule or censure by showing our Cemetery in that way?—W. S.

I am much pleased that you have called attention to the condition of Rural Cemeteries, and anticipate much good. We get used to seeing things as they are, and do not realize how they appear to others. Some one, perhaps, is interested about the matter, and suggests a change, but finds others indifferent and becomes discouraged, and so the matter rests for a year or two, when there is a little more talk and nothing done. An old statesman once said, "Those only deserve to be remembered by posterity who cherish the memory and treasure up the history of their ancestors." Very many who believe this and would like to act, have hardly known how best to commence a reform, or what plan to propose. At every step they have met difficulties that seemed insurmountable. These you have pointed out, and it seems to me suggested a system that will prove an effective remedy. What we have needed is a general system of control, so that all would be cared for alike, and at all times. Speaking for myself and neighbors, our management has been a good deal like house-cleaning. Once in several years we have made a general cleaning up, and then all went the old way again. Now we have learned the better way, I hope we shall have nerve enough to practice, though our disease has become somewhat *chronic*. I think, however, now we shall inaugurate a general

REFORM.

We do not believe our artist gave a view of any particular Cemetery—only a sketch showing the general features of a good many. No one should claim it.



GROWING PRIMULAS.

So many inquiries are constantly made of the way to grow plants of *Primulas* from seeds, and we have so many reports of failures, not only with this, but with other seeds of house-plants that require skill and delicate treatment, that we have before given several articles on this subject, and now publish one from *The Gardener's Chronicle*, of England.

"Of the many plants grown for decorative purposes during the winter, few, if any, are more valuable than Chinese *Primulas*, which, although not difficult to manage if a certain course of treatment is pursued, are rarely seen in really first-class condition. This arises in a great measure from growing them in unsuitable soil and in hot dry houses or pits, where they are at times subjected to too much shade by having thick mats thrown over them, or get exposed to strong blinks of sunshine, which sudden transition acting on the then flimsy foliage has a most injurious effect on their health. Although they will not endure the full solar rays, they require plenty of light to keep their leaf-stalks short, and the plants sturdy and strong, and in no way can this better be done than by affording them a frame to themselves, stood in such a position as to be screened from the sun by a tree or building, the former being the preferable of the two, as the shade it affords is less dense and more natural. Another essential point is that they have a cool bottom to stand on, and in no way can this so well be secured as by preparing a floor on the bare ground, so as to render it impervious to slugs and worms, which otherwise find their way in and do irreparable damage.

The first thing to set about to stop this is to scatter any refuse lime left from sifting where the frame is to stand, and after treading this down then to spread over it some coal-ashes to the depth of two or three inches, and make the surface thoroughly firm by rolling, after having given a good watering, which will greatly help in getting the materials consolidated. So made it will be thoroughly secure against intrusion

from below, and by giving a daily syringing or bedewing overhead, which in hot, dry weather the plants will thoroughly enjoy, the floor will become so saturated as to be always cool and moist, and create such an atmosphere as will be conducive to a clean, free growth. In a house or other situation where the air is arid, *Primulas* are often assailed by the red-spider, but this is never the case when their wants are cared for in the above-named way, as these pests can only thrive or exist under conditions the reverse of what the plants would then have, and which are so necessary to their welfare.

Besides being unable to grow *Primulas* successfully, through not affording them the kind of treatment already specified, there are many who fail in getting the seeds to germinate freely, and as they are very expensive, this is rather a serious matter, and a great disappointment to those concerned. Properly managed, however, there is no difficulty in the matter, and as the present is a good time for getting some in, a few words as to the proper mode of procedure may not come amiss. First, then, the pots or pans to receive them should be well drained, and over the crocks some rough material placed, which may consist of half-rotten leaves or refuse peat, and on this some of the latter finely sifted and added to one part loam to give it weight and consistency. The two, thoroughly mixed, should then be pressed firmly down so as to leave a perfectly level and smooth surface, and after this is done watered through a fine rose, and then stood to drain, when it will be ready for sowing the seed. This should be done thinly and regularly, that they may be got out when up and readily divided without breaking the roots or disturbing them in such a way as to check their onward process. The slightest covering to the seed is sufficient, and in no case should that exceed the sixteenth of an inch, or many will not find their way through.

One of the most frequent causes of non-success in getting up such seed as that of the *Primula* and others of like delicate nature, is the constant slopping they are subjected to, whereby

they are either washed bare and dried by exposure, or are carried down and drowned. The way to ensure free germination is to maintain the soil constantly at a uniform pitch as to moisture, and this can best be done by laying a piece of glass over and letting it rest on the rim of the pot or pan. To aid further, a piece of thick paper or some moss should then be laid on the glass to shut out the sun, which otherwise soon dries the surface, but when this is done great watchfulness is required to remove it as soon as the plants peep through or they will become drawn and spoilt at the outset. Any stove, warm house or hot-bed does to stand the pans in, and after the Primulas are up and potted they require a little warmth where they can be kept close for a few days to give them a start, after which the prepared frame already mentioned will be the best place for them for the remainder of the summer.

As regards soil, nothing suits so well as that which contains a good deal of vegetable matter, such as thoroughly decomposed leaves or fibry peat, two-thirds of either of which should be used to one of loam; add to this mixture a dash of sand, to keep it open and porous. If properly supplied with water and well fed with liquid manure when they have filled them with roots, six inch pots will grow them as well as any other, and are far handier than larger sizes for most purposes. In potting, the chief thing to attend to is to keep the crowns of the plants rather high, so as to be well clear of the soil, otherwise they are apt to canker off during the winter; more particularly is this the case if they are not very carefully watered, as any water lodging in the axils of the leaves at that time soon brings on decay. The small stem in proportion to the great weight of the foliage renders it necessary to support Primulas in some way, in order to keep them steady and erect, and this is best done by placing three small sticks triangularly close beside the plant, before doing which, however, they should be made perfectly sharp, that they may be thrust into the soil without damaging the roots.

Although Primulas do remarkably well in frames during the summer months they must be housed by the end of September, as after that the atmosphere in such places is much too damp for them. The best situation is a light, airy shelf near the glass, where they can enjoy a temperature ranging between 45 and 55 degrees, in which they will bloom in the greatest profusion. The double varieties, being a little more tender, will be all the better if it reaches a few degrees higher, but the light should always be in proportion to the heat they receive, or the flowers will come small."

CHESTNUT SUNDAY.

All who have visited *Bushey Park*, some fifteen miles from London, in the vicinity of Hampton Court, must have admired the magnificent Horse Chestnuts that border its broad avenues. They bear no resemblance to the stunted things we call Horse Chestnuts that starve on the edges of our brick sidewalks, and that have been pruned and chopped to get them up out of the way of the lamp-posts, until they look more like posts than trees. Once a year, on Sunday afternoon, when the Chestnut trees are in full flower, the people of London by tens of thousands visit this Park, and this has been so long and so generally the custom, that it is called *Chestnut Sunday*. The following from London Journals show the interest which the flowering of these trees excites among the people:

"The glorious bloom everywhere manifest in the Horse Chestnut indicates that the Cockney's familiar annual outing in Bushey Park may be looked for to-morrow, as just then the trees which form the noble avenues of that royal demesne will be at their best, and the fine spikes and pale pink flowers will be fully developed. Persons whose lives are always spent in the country amidst woods and green fields will perhaps find it difficult to understand the singular longing found in the breasts of pent-up Londoners to make so much of the blooming of a tree so common as is the Horse Chestnut, but those only whose lives are year after year spent in close workshops and courts can tell how fresh is the day amidst the sweet smelling trees and how invigorating the basking in the sunshine on the soft green verdure. Apart from this particular feature there is much to attract all who love Nature to visit the grand masses of trees at Bushey Park. Not only are they in quantity and in long avenues, but there is such majesty and such noble contour in their appearance apart from the passing beauties added by the myriads of spikes of bloom. We can only look with complacency on this observance of 'Chestnut Sunday,' and may well wish that the dwellers in Cockneyland may never lack less truthful teaching than these fine Chestnut trees will give them."—*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

"Last Sunday was what is known amongst the working classes of London as 'Chestnut Sunday,' so called as being the first in the season on which the Chestnut trees which form the noble avenue of Bushey Park Royal demesne are in their best bloom. Large numbers went by rail and river to admire the famous trees which now present a magnificent appearance, both the flowers and foliage being unusually fine this year."—*Jour. of Horticulture*.

PANSIES AS THEY ARE.

Most of the plates of Pansies that we find in European journals are wonderfully large, and also wonderfully formal and ugly. What puzzled us was that we never saw such things in the gardens. A recent number of the *London Garden* contains nine figures of Pansies, as they really were taken from the garden, both in size and form. The smallest is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, and the largest $2\frac{1}{4}$, and they look as natural as though just picked from our own ground. That journal says, "we have deliberately preferred to draw Pansies gathered in an unfavorable season, and in size inferior to what is sometimes seen just as they arrived, rather than encourage the gross misrepresentation of these plants, which has been the rule for many years in floricultural periodicals. This misrepresentation sometimes arose from certain rules, as to size and form, being communicated to the unfortunate artist who had to draw the flowers. The kind of hybrid, arising from the attempt to draw the ideal from the flowers, resulted in such abortions as that of which we give an outline—the said outline being more pleasing than the plate from which it was traced. The right course in the matter is to ask artists to paint what they see, and, indeed, those who respect themselves or their art will not do otherwise."

Last winter we received plenty of Pansies from the South measuring three inches in diameter, and have picked them as large in our seed-beds this spring. Once we thought the Pansy would never be grown well at the South, and now we think larger and better Pansies can be grown in the winter season in the Southern States than in any other section of country in the world at any season. The finest Pansies we ever beheld were grown in Charleston, South Carolina.

STUPID PEOPLE.—The good book tells us that the poor we shall always have with us, and this we could stand very well, but to bear with the foolish people now in the world taxes our patience terribly, and would have been pretty hard on good old JOB, so remarkable for his patience, and the only one we think that could excel us in this quality. To admit people into our grounds and then have them reward us by cutting their names, or the names of some other apes, in the bark of the trees shows a depth of stupidity that must point out unmistakably to DARWIN the "lost link." The London papers are indignant at one R. S. PARISH, who has been cutting his miserable name in the bark of some of the fine trees in the Kew Gardens. Another has carved NORA on other trees. We are glad all the fools don't live in America.

WALLFLOWERS IN PARIS.

Amongst the many rural elegancies that make Paris the freshest and brightest of cities, we must give a large place to the Wallflower. We see Wallflowers in plenty in all parts of Europe, and even in London they are not unknown. But really you must go to Paris to see Wallflowers just right, and to learn thereby how cheap is beauty and how universal is the medicine of gladness for the single eye that is full of light. On a sunny day in April you may see in the Parc de Monceaux, and other such places, what at a moderate distance look like beds of crimson Azaleas; but when you reach the spot you find them to be beds of Wallflowers, solid with bloom, quite uniform in height, and, as the gardeners say, "as neat as if turned out of a bandbox." Almost invariably the sorts employed are the deep blood-red and the bluish-purple, all the slaty blues being repudiated, and the best yellows being scarcely anywhere represented. These purples and blood-reds are mixed throughout in equal proportions, and the near view of them is as enjoyable as the distant view is surprising. The odour diffused adds very much to the charm of the golden-green leafage of the trees overhead, for wherever these fiery masses of Wallflowers are to be seen there are also trees enough to make a bower of pleasantness to drive dull care away.—S. H., in *Gardeners' Magazine*.

Wallflowers are not sufficiently hardy to endure our northern winters, but in more southern States this flower should not be rejected. They are fragrant and beautiful, and do well in the house if kept cool and moist.

EARLY FORCING LETTUCE.—D. GUIHENEUF has a paper in a recent number of the *London Garden*, in which he recommends for forcing the following varieties of Lettuce, Forcing Black Lettuce, Forcing White-Leaved, both French varieties, and Black Tennis Ball, Green Tennis Ball, Dauphine, Victoria Red Bordered and Tom Thumb. The best variety we have ever tried for forcing is the *Early Egg*. It has proved infinitely superior to any other. It is a variety we found in Germany, and which we have used for many years.

THE HOLLAND BULBS.—Our reports from Holland are quite satisfactory. The Hyacinths have fully recovered from the ill effects resulting from the bad weather last season, and promise to be unusually fine. The Tulips are not only especially good, but a little lower in price, in consequence of the unusually large and healthy growth. Many, we hope, will imitate our Dansville correspondent, and learn the beauty of the Tulip.



POOR STRAWBERRIES.

We never could tolerate the Wilson, or any other poor, sour Strawberry, no matter how productive. Mr. WM. PARRY, of Cinnamonsin, New Jersey, an old horticulturist, in an address before the Pennsylvania Fruit Growers' Society in January last, speaks very highly of the Crescent Seedling Strawberry. We have no personal knowledge of this variety, and it seems hardly possible that anything good can be obtained with so little trouble. Of quality nothing is said. MR. PARRY said:—

“The Crescent Seedling is a remarkable Strawberry. It is more productive, more easily grown, and with less expense than any other Strawberry that we have seen. We were shown a plantation four years old in fine condition, heavily laden with large, fine fruit, on which there had not been one dollar expended for manure or labor since the first year planted. The fruit is very uniform in size, between four and five inches round, of a bright scarlet color, beautiful, firm, attractive, and excellent quality. It carries well, and sells better than other Strawberries; ripens several days earlier than Wilson's Albany and holds out longer, leaving a green foliage at last. The plants are strong, vigorous growers, taking possession of the ground and holding the situation for many years, to the exclusion of weeds and grass. Having fruited it the past season, we have not seen any leaf blight, while other varieties were badly burnt with the hot sun. It must become a general favorite with large planters, who do not spend much time nursing their Strawberries. They are reported to have been carried two hundred miles, and exhibited without showing marks of transportation; have yielded at the rate of 15,000 quarts per acre, and it is estimated that they can be profitably grown at three cents per quart, allowing one cent for picking, one cent for expenses of growing and marketing, and leave one cent profit, equal to \$150 per acre, and for each additional cent per quart at which the fruit sells, add \$150 more profit per acre.”

SUCCESS AND FAILURE.

MR. VICK:—*Dear Sir*:—I thought I would tell you of my success in the culture of flowers. I know how to sympathize with others who complain that their seeds do not come up. Last fall I obtained some Ice Plant seeds and planted them; but not one of the worthless things came up. I did not cover them more than an inch deep, and the clods were not very large. A few weeks ago I thought I would try another experiment; so I pulverized the earth and scattered them over it; then I sifted earth over them to the depth of a sixteenth of an inch, carefully sprinkled them with water, placed a piece of glass over them and set them in a warm place. I think every seed must have sent up two pips; I am sure there were seeds enough in the package you sent me to plant an acre.

Why did you never tell us how beautiful Phlox Drummondii are for winter blooming in the house? We have a blood-red, and a rose color with white eye in full bloom now that have been in constant bloom for six months. I think the MAGAZINE is charming. I wish you would give us an article on the culture of Tree Carnations; we do not succeed with them very well.—AMATEUR.

The mail that brought to us the above also bore to our table a complaint from a gentleman that the Ice Plant seed he sowed produced a good crop of Burdock plants, the Burdock evidently coming from the soil, and not from the seeds planted. In our next number we will give some suggestions for the treatment of Tree Carnations, and also the propagation of other plants for winter. We will now only say that Tree Carnations, being designed for winter flowering, the main point is to secure strong and healthy plants by autumn. Seed may be sown in early spring, or young plants can be purchased later, and these, being grown from cuttings, are sure to be true. In either case, in June the plants should be in pots of rich earth, sunk in the soil to the rim. All long and straggling shoots should be pinched back and every bud removed, thus securing a compact growth. When removed to the house in the fall the Carnation thus treated will be anxious for a chance to bloom, and will push out buds at the first opportunity. The Carnation is a pretty hardy plant, and it is not well to give it too much heat at first.—The fact is there are few of our annuals but will succeed in the house as well as the Phlox, if the room is not kept too fearfully hot, dry and dusty. A cool, moist, clear atmosphere will give an abundance of flowers.

A GRAND POPPY.

I send you to-day a very large Poppy, brilliant scarlet, with blackish spots at the base of each petal. It is perennial, I think, for I have had it for several years.



Will you please give me its name? I think if people were acquainted with its character it would be more generally grown.
—C. W.

The flower was received somewhat injured, but it appears to be the variety known as *Oriental*, which bears a large scarlet flower, six inches in diameter, with dark purplish spots at the base of each petal, and a very pretty arrangement of stamens and pistils of the same color. The plant is perennial, very hardy and vigorous, and its flowers are thrown up from two to three feet. Seeds sown any time in the spring or summer will produce flowers



the next season. In the engravings above a view of plant is given, and also one of the flowers, the latter being about one-fourth the natural size.

THE SEASON.—For many years we have always observed that about the 10th of June vegetation had reached about the same state of forwardness. The early spring, even a portion of March, was so unusually warm that we were prepared to admit this season to be quite exceptionally early. The cold winds and the frosts of May and June, however, have dispelled this illusion, and at present, the 10th of June, we find vegetation generally in its usual condition at this season, while a few things have suffered sorely from the unseasonably cold weather of late spring and early summer.

JEALOUS PEOPLE.

What a strange world this is. If a man happens to be wise and good-looking, and, of course, appreciated by the ladies, all the foolish and ill-looking men are jealous, and ready to say all kinds of bad things about him. The women have no such mean, jealous feelings towards each other. The wiser and more beautiful a lady, the more noticed and appreciated by gentlemen, the more her lady friends are pleased. In fact, they not only seem to share her success, but glory in it. Read the following from the *Pioneer Press*, of Saint Paul, Minnesota, and see how men talk:—

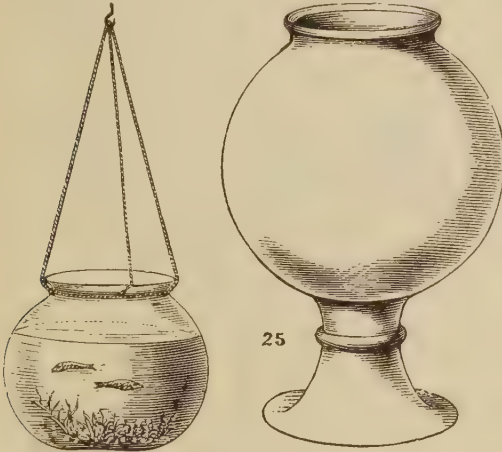
A WORD OF CAUTION.—Ladies having jealous husbands had better have nothing to do with JAMES VICK, of Rochester. We never knew an instance where a lady got acquainted with him through his publications or in business transactions, that she did not, on the start, say he was a "nice" man, and from this gradually slide into the use of other and more endearing adjectives, until—well, we won't go into particulars, but have our opinion of a man that is able to captivate the hearts of a whole country full of women. A very common way he has of storming the citadel is, when a lot of seeds are ordered to slip in an extra package of something new or rare, which the buyer could not afford and did not expect, just, we suppose, to create a little disturbance. And then he manages to pack them so neat and orderly—man like (!)—and always sends them through on the fastest express and in good shape, and they grow so easily and prove to be so much handsomer than was expected that what woman is there that does not toss her pretty head and say with emphasis, to the great alarm of her adoring and sensitive husband: "There now! JAMES VICK is a man after my own heart," etc., etc. But we have now another and fresh cause for complaint. Not satisfied with issuing a quarterly and distracting the minds of the ladies four times a year with gorgeous lithographs of new floral beauties, he has begun the publication of a MONTHLY, and henceforth ladies will have barely time to get their heads straightened before they will be turned again by a fresh number, more seductive than its predecessor. We have several of these incendiary documents before us, and what with all the splendid frontispieces and designs for flower beds and front yards, and the cuts of new flowers, and the gossip department, and the foreign notes, and the young peoples department, and the "botany for young folks," and all the general instruction about the cultivation of flowers and work in the garden, as well as the correspondence thrown in—it is enough to warrant the assertion on the part of every law-abiding husband that it is a conspiracy against the comfort and well being of his class. Who can expect dish-washing to be neatly done, or shirt bosoms ironed to the proper gloss, or beef-steak broiled to the right point, or the sweeping and dusting carefully attended to, or the children started off to school with clean faces and noses, and hair combed, when for \$1.25 a year, one of these distracting publications can be brought into the house for a twelve month? We have drifted upon evil times—fallen into the hands of the Phillistines, and there is no Samson with his great strength to deliver us.

YUCCA.—I have a Yucca or Adam's Needle, the flower-stalk of which has grown nearly nine feet, and is still growing rapidly. It is just beginning to send out flowering branches.—Mr. A. W. D., near Hampton, Va.

GOLD FISH AND AQUARIUMS.

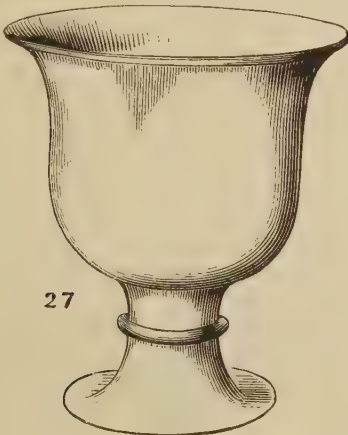
I wish to keep Gold Fish, but I do not know any thing about the care of them. I wish in your next MAGAZINE you would tell us what to keep them in and how often to change the water. You are good to poor folks that can't afford many luxuries. Could they be kept in a box or trough painted white on the inside?—E., *Spencer, Wis.*

Glass Fish Globes, as they are called, and Aquariums are so cheap that it would hardly pay to make a wooden box or anything of the kind, as it would be likely to give constant



FISH GLOBES.

trouble. Globes can be obtained for from one to two dollars, and nice little Aquariums from two to four dollars. Use rain water, if pure, or well water, and change it only as it becomes discolored. Throw in a little fresh every day or so as it evaporates. Feed Fish wafer, as it is called, and sold at the stores, at twenty-five



FISH GLOBE.

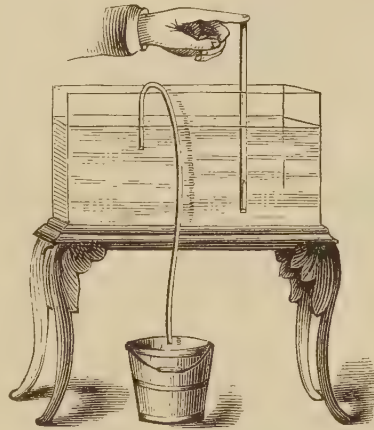
cents per package, or cracker crumbs, and a little fresh meat occasionally. Give all the fish will eat, but nothing to remain, as it will foul the water. In a globe of ordinary size there is no room for plants, but a piece of Lycopodium thrown in the water looks pretty, and the fish seem to like it. Put an inch of gravel at the bottom of the globe. The globe can be suspended or placed upon a stand.

An Aquarium, about twelve inches by twenty-four, with four or five good sized fish and a plant or two, is very satisfactory, and hardly as much trouble as the globe, because the water needs to be changed but seldom. On obtaining an Aquarium, give it a thorough cleaning, and then cover the bottom with an inch or two of pretty gravel, and on this place a few natural rocks, such as can be found generally on the banks of creeks, &c. These should be grouped



AQUARIUM.

in a picturesque way, representing grottoes, &c., and if it is possible to make openings through which the fish can pass, the effect is very pleasing. The way of doing this we have tried to show in the engraving. The rocks being grouped to advantage and made firm, the next step is the introduction of plants. Many little things can be gathered from the ponds that will look well, and a Calla is always in place.



SIPHON AND DIPPING TUBE.

In emptying an Aquarium, in general, it will only be necessary to take out as much water as can be dipped out without disturbing the fish, but the water can be conveniently removed with a siphon. The siphon for this purpose is simply a small rubber pipe that will reach from the bottom of the Aquarium to a pail on the floor. Fill the pipe with water, then place a finger on each end of the pipe, to prevent the water coming out. Put one end in the water of the Aquarium and the other in the empty pail on the floor, as shown in the engraving, and the water

will run until the tank is empty, always supposing that the end of the pipe in the pail is lower than the end in the Aquarium.

It is always bad to have unconsumed food lying in an Aquarium, and it should be removed. Sometimes there happens to be a little accumulation of sediment in a particular spot, which it is well to take out. Any thing of this kind can be picked up by the Dipping Tube. It is simply a metal or glass tube, and is used in this way. Place the finger on the upper end and then dip the tube in the water, over the object to be taken up. Remove the finger for a moment, and the water will rush up the tube, sucking with it the object sought. Place the finger again on the upper end of the tube, and it can be taken out and emptied. Keep Globes and Aquariums in as cool a location in the house as possible. A very warm room is the worst possible place for fish or plants. Do not crowd an Aquarium with plants or rocks, or fill it too full of water.

POISON IVY—VIRGINIA CREEPER.

MR. VICK:—I find a great many people think that the five leaved Ivy, (*Ampelopsis quinquefolia*), is poison. Is there any foundation for this belief? Is it a fact that some may handle it with impunity, while others are



POISON IVY.

poisoned by it? If this plant is not poisonous, what plant is it that poisons so many people in the woods?—T. J. L., *Atlantic, Iowa*.

Any one by a little care can distinguish these plants. The Poison Ivy has *three* leaflets, which are thin, light-green, and without gloss, while the veining is not conspicuous.

The Ampelopsis has *five* leaflets, of a darker green than the Poison Ivy, with very prominent ribs and veins, and are quite glossy, as if varnished. The Ampelopsis or Virginia Creeper



VIRGINIA CREEPER.

is such a useful plant that we regret it should get a bad name by being associated in the minds of any with an entirely different species, so we had our artists procure plants and make engravings of both, in doing which they had to handle the poisonous kind carefully, and even then complained of unpleasant results. No one, we think, with the description and engravings before them, need make a mistake.

A Hardy, Handsome Flower.—I enclose flower and leaf of a plant I would like you to name. It is of a trailing habit, a thrifty grower, perfectly hardy here without protection, and in bloom from this time till hard frosts in the fall. The seed was sent us from Kansas, where it grows wild, but I think it is worthy a place in the garden of every lover of flowers.—J. R. W., *Evansville, Wisconsin*.

Your flower is *Callirhoe involucrata*, a Mallow-like plant, with large, purplish-red flowers with white center, which gives them a striking and pretty appearance. They are five-petalled, and about



two inches across. It is a native of the western prairies, but grows well anywhere, and is easily raised from seed. The lovers of flowers have traversed the globe in search of treasures, and it is almost impossible to find a flower that is not known to florists and cultivated in our gardens.

TO MAKE A LAWN ON HARD SOIL.

How can I make a lawn on a soil that is poor and hard—clay on the top, so that it bakes and the grass cannot get through. I have tried several times and failed. I have raked in manure until it would seem to be rich enough, but the first storm would batter it down hard, and the first sun bake it like a brick. Now what can I do? Please to tell me and help me out of my trouble.—W. N. T.

If we could do so we would give that ground a top-dressing of good mellow soil, say about an inch in depth, just enough to give the roots a start. A good lawn, however, can be made in such a soil even, without this trouble and expense. Prepare the soil properly by plowing, raking, etc., in dry weather. Do not touch it when wet. Then sow the seed, and give the whole surface a top-dressing of manure. If you have water at command, sprinkle freely; if not, you must trust to the elements. Let the manure all remain until the grass is well up; then remove with a rake the coarsest, allowing a good dressing of fine manure still to remain. This will bring grass on the stiffest clay we ever handled. We neglected to say that the grass should be sown either early in the autumn, or early in the spring, so as to have the benefit of fall and spring rains. If sown in the autumn, unless unusually mild and growing, so as to make a thick and tall growth of grass, the manure may be allowed to remain until spring.

DOUBLE "MAY FLOWER."

By the same mail which brings this card you will receive a small box of double May Flowers. This is something new, I believe. They were found near Keene, N. H. Please mention this in your MAGAZINE if you think them anyways novel or interesting.—C. H. M., *Ashburnham Depot, Mass.*

Every part of the world has its May Flower, and often several. Almost any plant that blossoms in the early season is called the May



Flower. In England the Hawthorn is the May, while in some places the wild Azalia is known as the May. With the above we received a branch of the beautiful Trailing Arbutus, bearing perfectly double flowers, as perfect, as beautiful, and certainly as sweet as little roses. We do not remember having before seen or heard of a double one. The Trailing Arbutus will not grow in our gardens, but requires the same cool atmosphere and shade as our native Ferns.

MONKEY FLOWER.

MR. VICK:—Will you give me the name of the enclosed flower, and also say to your readers that this is one of the best flowers for the house, giving its delicate blooms all the winter, and keeping healthy and vigorous. I have two kinds, this and a single one.—Mrs. M. I. S.

The flower received with the above was the *Mimulus*, or Monkey Flower, a very elegant



little plant for winter, and one we can recommend also for baskets in sheltered places. The plant is tender and succulent, and is very easily broken. There are several good varieties. The engraving shows what is called the double kind, though the doubling is merely a double tube, as shown in the engraving. The Musk Plant is a variety of *Mimulus*.

KEEPING OF THE HUBBARD SQUASH.—For the benefit of those who complain that the Hubbard Squash won't keep, I say that we are eating pies to-day from a Squash picked last October, and put up stairs in a dry room, and it is as sound as when gathered. Last July 4th our Post Master, D. A. BECKLEY, partook with us of a pie from a Hubbard that day cut, which had been kept in a like manner from the fall before, and was sound, and looked as if it would keep for another year.—MRS. S. N. WALKER, *Bloomsburg, Pa.*

GARDENING IN CHINA.—On the 18th of April a lady wrote us from Foo Chou, China, "Our summer gardens amount to nothing, the sun burning them up, but now, and all through the winter the flowers are abundant. Our winters are so mild that all flowers can be kept out of doors. I read your books with delight. You are scattering beauty around the world and brightening homes in all lands."

CAULIFLOWER GROWING.

MR. VICK:—Some years ago I saw in one of your books a description of the way Cauliflower was raised in the low lands of Germany, I think. Will you please inform me which book it was in and the price, as I should like to obtain it.—M. W. W., *East Berlin, Conn.*

Perhaps it may be interesting to others as well as our correspondent to give the facts, as we have not done so in this journal. Cauliflower needs plenty of water, and after seeing the splendid Cauliflower growing around Erfurt, and observing the pains taken in its culture, I did not wonder that we so often failed in our hot, dry climate, and especially with our superficial treatment. Cauliflower is grown in low, mucky ground, which is thrown up in wide ridges. The plants are set on the ridges, and between these are ditches of water. Every dry day the water is thrown from these ditches upon the growing plants, and the result is Cauliflower of enormous size, compact, and almost as white as snow. The water in these ditches we know to be about two feet deep, and pretty



cold, for observing a plank across one of them and wishing to make a short cut, on attempting to cross on what proved to be a treacherous bridge, for the plank did not rest fairly on the opposite bank, we took an involuntary foot-bath. The engraving will give a pretty good idea of these Cauliflower gardens, and the process of watering. In the ditches Water Cress is grown, both for cutting and seed, and the two crops are said to be quite profitable, while the quality is certainly excellent.

BROCOLI IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.—Where the winters are mild and wet the Brocoli should be grown. It is hardier and comes to perfection later than Cauliflower, so it may be cut through the winter. Mrs. JAMES TULLOCK, of San Juan Co., W. T., writes, "The Brocoli does extremely well here. I raised heads, last season, that weighed more than ten pounds each."

Hyacinth Bulbs.—SIR:—Well you be so kind as to advise me in the following matter? I purchased a fine Hyacinth bulb of you two years ago, and it did well in a pot in the house. Last fall I planted it outside, and this spring it did not blossom, and upon taking it up after the leaves turned yellow, I find it divided or increased to seven medium sized bulbs. Will it ever blossom again, or is it worthless for future flowering?—MRS. M. M., *Gardner, Kansas.*

Plant those small bulbs early in the autumn, and the largest will probably bloom next season. The smaller ones may require another season's growth before arriving at blooming size. They will not, perhaps, give very fine trusses of flowers, and it would not be worth while to try them in the house, but in the garden they will cause so little trouble that the experiment is worth trying.

Mixing of Fruits and Seeds.—Will you, in the next number of your MAGAZINE, state just what can safely be done, and what not done, in planting Squashes, Pumpkins, Cucumbers, Gourds, Citrons, Musk and Water Melons near each other, what, if any, will not affect the fruit, and what the seed? I have always supposed that planting any two of the above near each other would injure the quality of the fruit or seed, but most people do not agree with me.—C. T. P., *South Hanover, Mass.*

Melons, Squashes, Pumpkins and Cucumbers belong to the *Cucurbitaceæ*, or Gourd Family, but in separate divisions, as follows: *Cucurbita*, Pumpkins and Squashes; *Citrullus*, Water Melon, Citron and Gherkin; *Cucumis*, Musk Melon and Cucumbers. Those belonging to the same section, like Pumpkin and Squash, will mix freely. The hybridization of the dif-

ferent sections is not accomplished so readily, and how far it can be done is not well settled. The production of seed is the important work of the plant for the continuation of plant life; the fleshy covering is really an unimportant matter in plant economy. The fertilization by the pollen of the flower affects the seed, and not the flesh, as a general rule. Many curious facts have been published showing, however, that the character of the flesh is sometimes changed by cross-fertilization. The contrary, however, is the general rule. Two Cherry trees may be growing side by side, or two Strawberry plants; the fruit of each will retain its true character, but if the seed of either is sown, when the plants or trees bear fruit it will be found to differ from the fruit from which the seeds were taken, showing that the seed and not the fruit was changed by cross-fertilization. This is a subject of much interest, and facts fully verified will always be acceptable.

OUR CEMETERIES.

We cannot well help giving portions of a letter received from Mr. CHARLES DOWNING, of Newburgh. It was designated as "*private*," and, of course, we would not think of putting it in our MAGAZINE, except in a quiet corner in our *Gossip*, and that is understood to be all very private. Perhaps in another number we may find space for the publication of some of the very wise regulations of this Association.

FRIEND JAMES VICK :—In the June number of your ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY MAGAZINE you give an interesting article on Cemeteries, which has induced me to send you a copy of the rules of Cedar Hill Cemetery, which has been recently established near this city, and in which you will notice that the burial lots are not to be enclosed, either with fences or hedges of any kind, but with corner stones having the initials of the owners' names on them. These stones are to be sunk even with the ground, to allow the lawn mowing machines to pass over them, which is done as often as is necessary to keep the grounds in good condition. The grounds are kept in order by the Association and at their expense, which relieves the lot owners of any care on their part, and it is a satisfaction to know that all will be well cared for in the future. There are several sections in the grounds devoted to ornamental planting of trees, shrubs and flowers, and in which there are no burial lots. This plan is preferable to a promiscuous planting by the different owners on their lots.

A SUCCESS.—I am moved to write you of my success. I have two beds of Pansies, one on the north side of my house with hundreds of the most beautiful blossoms, the admiration of all the neighborhood, and the envy (I am sorry to say,) of some. The Crown Imperial—red and yellow—both budded to bloom, contrary to my expectation, but my little son, thinking to try his hand at flower raising, "raised" the buds from the yellow one. The Ampelopsis quinquefolia is putting forth vigorously, and the Tulips, though cheap bulbs, what shall I say of them? Though my little boy took a hand with those, too, they showed fine bloom, and were several days in advance of any in the place. One crimson single flower was over four inches in diameter; and by the way, I admire the single flowers most. I think, as a beginner, I have every reason to be proud of my success in this most delightful of pursuits.—C. W. T., Mantua Station, Ohio.

A City Garden.—My garden is forty-five feet deep, and thirteen feet wide. Could you tell me the reason everything grows so wild in it? Tomato plants grow ten to twelve feet high, and only a few Tomatoes on them; and about the same with flowers. I dug it all a foot deep, and the ground is all light and not too much manure in it. I think it is too poor.—T. P., Brooklyn, New York.

We think your soil is rich enough—perhaps too much so, but you have too little sunshine and not a good circulation of air, hence your plants grow tall and weak.

Melons and Insects.—Will you inform me through the MAGAZINE how to save Squash vines when attacked by quantities of striped bugs and squash bugs? Last year the vines on our farm were very luxuriant and in blossom, but were all killed. My melons this year are eaten by a fly or bug almost as soon as they come up. The leaves are perforated.—JULIA G. D., Northboro, Mass.

Plant protectors are now made very cheaply—about twelve cents each—that afford abundant protection. Visit the vines morning and evening, and catch all you can. They are not very active in the cool of the morning. Sprinkle soot over the plants. Watch and work. The little black fly only attacks the smooth seed leaf. Make the plants grow as rapidly as you can, and as soon as the rough leaves appear your plants will be safe from this little enemy. Ashes, fine dust, etc., will annoy them, and retard them in their mischief.

THE CABBAGE WORM.—The green Cabbage worm (*Pieris rapa*.) can be successfully destroyed with hot water. The Cabbage plants will bear without injury the water heated to 200° Fahrenheit, while even at a few degrees lower in temperature it will kill the worms. The hot water is best applied through the rose of a common watering pot. This method of destruction is easier and more efficient than the use of salt, carbolate of lime, and other substances which have been employed more or less efficiently heretofore.

Tomato Pest.—A pest has attacked the Tomato crop south in the form of a miller, which stings the Tomato and deposits its eggs inside of the fruit. The eggs soon hatch out a worm that eats the inside of the Tomato all out. These pests are making great havoc this year. Can you advise me of a remedy?—W. C. M., West Killingly, Conn.

We know nothing of this Tomato enemy. Some of our readers will please send us specimens of the insect and injured fruit.

Preserving Cut Flowers.—Will you please tell your readers in the next issue of your MONTHLY the most successful manner of preserving cut flowers for several days?—A CONSTANT READER.

A drop or two of ammonia in the water is thought to be of service. Change the water every day, and cut off half an inch or so of the stems of the flowers.

CHINESE GARDENERS.—The Chinese of California are very skillful gardeners, and they are wonderfully successful in making seeds germinate,—even those that are considered very old and poor. They purchase of San Francisco seedsmen seeds that are considered too old for sale, and that "no glow for 'Melican man," and by some unknown skill produce wonderful crops of the choicest vegetables.

A COLD FRAME.

MR. EDITOR:—Please tell all your amateur readers to start their seed in a cold frame. There is nothing like it for certainty. Formerly I used hot-beds, but these are dangerous. A little too much heat, or half an hour's burning sun, will destroy a planting. It requires the skill of a florist, almost, to manage one. With a cold frame I have no trouble. Do not even care for glass, but have a cotton cloth stretched on a frame which I throw over the frame when the sun is very hot, and on cold nights. This season my wife wanted a pretty large lot of plants, and so I sowed half a paper of each kind of flower in the cold frame, and sowed the other half in a nice bed in the garden. It seemed as if every seed in the cold frame grew, while not one in a dozen in the open ground came up. A cold frame simply being a box of boards without bottom or top, is made for almost nothing, and by anybody. It protects the earth and young plants from winds and storms, and my experience is that there is nothing so good to ensure the germination of seeds.—SHAFFER.

Wild Plants and Pansies.—MR. VICK: Enclosed you will find two varieties of wild flowers that grow in the shaded places near this place, and that I have never found elsewhere. They are just lovely, as they bloom so early, and in such profusion and are such a lovely shade of blue. The variety that is not in bloom comes earliest and remains in bloom a long time. They are both perennials, but grow readily from seed. My Pansies raised from seed nearly all measure three inches across, and they seem to surprise nearly every one here. My Double Petunias last season were as large as the largest Dahlias, and bloomed all winter as well as summer, for I removed them to the house.—MRS. J. M. H., *Ossian, Iowa.*

The specimen out of flower is *Mertensia Virginica*, Lungwort. The one in flower is *Polemonium reptans*, Greek Valerian.

Barn Swallow.—In your last MONTHLY, page 188, the description of Barn Swallows may be correct, but I never saw one that had a white chest, or belly. The Wood Swallow and Bank Swallow each have the white, or light grey belly. The Swallow that builds in our barns and open buildings has a leather, or russet-yellow chest and belly. Am I not right? From five years observation I do think the English Sparrow has been very much belied. They do live in great peace with all other kinds of birds.—E. W., *Hingham, Mass.*

Our correspondent is quite right, and we are pleased to have attention called to an error, which otherwise we might not have noticed.

Good Climbing Plant.—Inclosed find a vine of which you will please give me the name in the next number of the MAGAZINE. It roots readily from cuttings, and is used here as a house plant. I do not know whether it is hardy or not.—L. E. D., *Mazon, Ill.*

The plant is *Maurandya*. For a description of it see page 198, this number.

A FINE CALLA.—In the April number of your MAGAZINE MRS. S. W., of Hingham Center, Mass., gave a description of her Calla, and I thought I would measure mine. It is not quite two years old. The bulb has separated into three parts. It commenced blossoming in December last, has had seven blossoms, and two more buds are forming. It has seven leaves, the largest measuring forty-four inches high, twelve inches wide, and nineteen inches long; the smallest leaf is eight inches wide, and fifteen inches long. The flower-stalk is forty-two inches high. It has been re-potted once, and is now in a pail twelve inches deep and twelve and a half inches across the top. The soil used is leaf mould from the woods. I water it freely and wash the leaves once each day, and keep it in a warm room, in front of a south window. I was told they needed rest after blossoming, but mine looked so nice I could not think of letting it die down, therefore I have kept it growing, and it is pronounced a very nice plant by all that see it.—MRS. O. K. E., *Volinia, Mich.*

Slugs on Cherries.—Last year my Cherry trees were stripped of about every leaf by a small black slug. I believe these slugs ate up every cherry leaf, not only from my trees, but also from those of my neighbors. I have never heard of a remedy. What can we do to save our trees from such injury, and also from such a wretched appearance?—PRUNUS.

The remedy is just the simplest thing in the world. These slugs have a soft skin, to which dust will adhere. Dust the trees thoroughly with dry dust from the roadway, or with dry ashes, and you will kill every slug. Repeat the dose every time you observe the slug.

THE ONLY REASON.—"Why do I get other Magazines and papers regularly, when every once in a while a number of your MAGAZINE fails to arrive?" Gold and diamonds and thousand dollar bills would not be as safe in the mails as note paper and pennies. That is the only reason that occurs to us.

Saving Ferns.—Please tell me how I may preserve best some of the plants in my fernery, so that I can use them again next winter?—MRS. H. S., *Reading, Mass.*

Remove the plants to a cool shady corner in the garden, and give them an occasional soaking with water. Wet the plants as well as the soil.

PANSIES IN SAN JOSE, CAL.—I have more than three hundred Pansy plants growing, some of them two feet in height. It is the most beautiful bed of flowers I ever saw, and so says every one here.—MRS. I. C. B.



BOTANY FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

The Magnolia trees are famed for their beauty among beautiful trees, and wherever they will grow are highly prized and carefully cultivated. The Magnolia family, *Magnoliaceæ*, comprises not only the Magnolias, but several other genera, of which the one most familiar to our readers is that represented by the Tulip-tree or White-wood, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, common in our forests and often cultivated as a shade tree. All the members of this family are either shrubs or trees, and in this respect there is a marked contrast to the Ranunculaceæ, the order previously considered, which consists almost wholly of herbaceous plants.

The flower of the Magnolia, shown at fig. 74, has a calyx consisting of three sepals colored like petals; the petals are six in number, arranged in two rows; and the stamens are numerous. The sepals, the petals and the sta-



Fig. 71. Magnolia Flower cut vertically.

mens are free and distinct from each other, standing upon the receptacle, as may be seen in fig. 71; but the numerous pistils are joined together at their bases or ovaries, and arranged

in several circles, one above the other. In some of the genera the pistils are few in number and stand in a single circle or row, and the ovaries are distinct. The diagram of the flower, fig. 72, shows the relative situation of the parts. As shown in the Ranunculus, so in this flower the sepals and the petals are imbricate.

The leaf, as seen at fig. 74, is obovate, acuminate, with margin entire.



Fig. 72. Diagram of Magnolia flower.

It is a peculiarity of the family to have leaves with entire margins; the leaves are sometimes lobed, but never dentate or serrate. The leaf of the Tulip-tree, fig. 73, is peculiarly lobed, but the margin is entire. No more minute description of this subject is given, for the reason that our design is only to convey to our readers some of the important and most obvious distinctions of the order. Bringing together all the points noticed, with one or two others, and we have the following brief description of this family: *Trees and Shrubs. Leaves alternate. Stipules none or thin and almost transparent—membranous—and falling off when the leaf expands. Sepals, usually three. Petals, six, or sometimes numerous. Stamens numerous. Sepals, petals and stamens all standing distinct on the receptacle. Pistils, usually numerous, with the ovaries sometimes cohering and sometimes distinct.*

The Magnolias are natives of this country, and of Asia and Japan. The native species are found growing from Massachusetts to Florida. One of the best known, perhaps, is the



Fig. 73. Leaf of Tulip-tree.

Cucumber tree, M. acuminata, found occasionally in the western part of this State, and more commonly further west and south, attaining a height of sixty to ninety feet. It is a rapid grower, symmetrical in shape, with large, handsome leaves, making it a valuable

ornamental tree for large grounds; its flowers, although large, have no particular beauty. The White Bay, or Sweet Bay, *M. glauca*, although found naturally in the region of the sea coast from Massachusetts to the extreme south, offers no objection to cultivation inland, and is one of the most valuable ornamental species. The leaves are a dark shining green on the upper



Fig. 74. *M. Conspicua*, var. *Speciosa*.

surface, and quite light beneath; the flowers are about three inches across, and delightfully fragrant. The Umbrella tree, *M. umbrellata*, or, as formerly called, *M. tripetala*, is a small sized tree, seldom growing more than thirty feet high. Its leaves are often two feet in length and are disposed around the ends of the branches, from which circumstance it receives its peculiar name, Umbrella tree. The flowers are very large, pure white, and of a sweet but heavy odor not altogether pleasant. The three species mentioned are the hardiest of the native kinds, and are cultivated as far north as the southern line of the lower lakes and in some particularly favorable localities further north.

Of the species growing in the Southern States, and too tender for the North, the Evergreen Magnolia, *M. grandiflora*, is the one most extensively cultivated. Our Southern friends prize this tree as highly as we at the North do our magnificent Elms and Maples. The trees of this species attain a large size; the leaves are thick and leathery, of a shining, dark green color on the upper surface, and from six to twelve inches in length; and the sweet-scented white flowers are from six to nine inches across. There are other valuable species, which cannot now be mentioned for lack of space.

Although our own country affords so many beautiful kinds of Magnolias, still we must acknowledge our indebtedness to the Old World for some sorts that are now commonly employed to ornament our lawns and pleasure grounds. The species of Chinese Magnolias and their hybrid varieties are handsome, compact, small trees, much more abundant in bloom, and more beautiful than our northern sorts, and, as they are quite as hardy, they are taking the lead of the native kinds in ornamental planting, particularly on village and city lots and on small grounds. A peculiar feature of the Magnolias is that of their seed; when ripe the ovaries open and the seeds fall out, but as each seed is attached to the ovary by a little white cord it hangs suspended until in time it falls away.

The colored sepals of the flower just examined lead us to a subject of much interest, and that is the mutual resemblance of the parts of a flower and the common principle upon which they are constructed. In ordinary flowers there is no apparent resemblance between sepals, petals, stamens and pistils to the uneducated eye, but we hope to make it plain that there is such a likeness, and that there is no great difficulty in tracing it when the subject is understood and the eye has been properly trained. In fact, it will be shown that there is not only a similarity in the different parts of the flower, but that each part may be compared and likened to a leaf; that the plant, at a certain state of maturity instead of making more leaves, continues in the operation of the same mode of action to produce the different whorls of the flower composing the sepals, the petals, the stamens and the pistil. This idea, vaguely entertained from the time of LINNÆUS, was fully defined and clearly proven by the poet GÖTTE, and is now an elementary principle of botany which every interested observer may often have opportunity to verify for himself.



Fig. 75. Oak Twig.

If the young shoot of a tree on which the leaves are situated alternately be examined it will be seen that the leaves are arranged in a regular manner,—that they pass around the shoot in a spiral manner, and that it requires an exact number to pass once around the stem. Take, for instance, a young shoot of a Cherry

tree and it will be found that, commencing at any particular leaf it requires five leaves to pass around. In the same manner this is illustrated by a twig of the Oak, as shown at *fig. 75*; commencing at the lower leaf and following around in the order of the nearest leaf, we find that the fifth leaf completes the cycle, and that the sixth leaf stands directly over the first one



Fig. 76. Primrose with sepals converted into true leaves.

and is the commencement of another cycle. It may take two, three, or some other number of leaves to pass once around the stem, but whatever number it may be, that arrangement will be followed all over the plant. Let us suppose now that

the stem of a plant, say a shoot of a Cherry tree, instead of increasing in length should develop the five leaves required to pass once around its stem; in this case there would be a circle or whorl of five leaves; if above or within this whorl should be produced another whorl of five leaves, there would be an arrangement similar to the calyx and corolla of a flower; let another whorl of narrow leaves be produced, and a central one with its edges folded in and there would be something like the stamens and pistils. We cannot say that when a flower is produced the leaves are changed into the parts of a flower, for this is not so, since the flower is formed when there were no leaves previously; but we can say that the same principle is in operation in producing the leaves and the parts of the flower around the central stem, modified to produce the different results. We shall see that sometimes the change of leaf-growth to flower-growth is only partial, and that where sepals and petals should properly be formed leaves are formed in their place. A notable example of this is shown in a

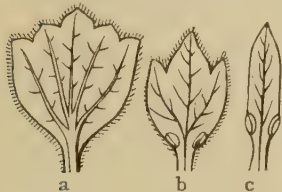


Fig. 77. Petal and stamens of Alpine Strawberry.

nurserymen;—in this rose the petals are all green, like leaves. There is a variety of Alpine Strawberry which, instead of white petals has green ones resembling leaves, and strongly veined, as shown at *fig. 77, a*. All the sta-

mens of this singular flower are also green and shaped as shown in the engraving, where two forms (b and c) are given, as they vary from narrow to broad leaf-like bodies with little yellow lobes on each side representing the lobes of the anther.

The white Water Lily, *Nymphaea alba*, exhibits a formation of petals and stamens which vary in numerous ways from perfect petals to perfect stamens. This is shown at *fig. 78*, where the perfect petal is shown at 1, and these are variously modified until what may be considered the perfectly formed stamen is seen at 7.



Fig. 78. Petals and stamens of Water Lily.

7. 1 and 2 may be considered as petals and the others as stamens; 2 shows the petal contracting in length and breadth; 3 shows the first appearance of an anther; at 4 the parts have become more defined, representing the filament and the anther; and 5, 6, and 7 show the stamen in successive stages of development.

The pistil is shown to be a modified leaf by many examples; it is very clearly exemplified in the double flowering Cherry. In this flower, instead of appearing in its proper form as in the single flower of the Cherry as represented by d, in *fig. 79*, it appears in many ways like a leaf somewhat changed in form. At a, *fig. 79*, it is shown like a little flat leaf; at b, like a leaf partly folded; and at c, still more folded with its upper portion contracted into the form of a style and bearing at its summit the form of a stigma, approaching very closely in form the perfectly formed pistil represented at d. The



Fig. 79. a, b and c, Pistils or carpellary leaves of the Double Flowering Cherry. d, Pistil of Single Cherry.

double flower of the Cherry is formed by the stamens changing into pistils, and this is the way all double flowers are produced. In some cases the pistil or petals also change into petals, but in the double Cherry the change is greater,

and the pistil reverts back to the leaf form. If with the aid of the microscope we should carefully watch the growth of the pistil in flowers, we should find that at first they are green points which expand into little concave bodies, with a green surface; soon they become more concave, the edges approach each other and finally unite, forming the hollow portion which is the ovary. Our last illustration is that of a Rose in which the receptacle, instead of being checked in its growth after the formation of the flower, continues to lengthen, forming a stem with perfect leaves.

From the evidence that has been produced, it is obvious that there is a common principle in the mode of growth of leaves and the parts



Fig. 80. Rose with stem prolonged through it.

of a flower,—that a flower, in a certain sense, may be said to be composed of leaves modified in their structure. Recurring now to the flower of the Magnolia which we first examined, we have an explanation for its sepals being colored like the petals; the change from the leaf form in the case of these sepals proceeded as far as in most flowers it does in the petals. This form of sepal is not uncommon; the Fuchsia is a familiar example of it.

Asparagus Bed.—I am very fond of Asparagus, and have the privilege of making a bed for my Aunt, with whom I live. She will give me the ground, furnish me the plants, and help me all she can. How shall I do it? — WILLIE T.

Spade up a bed four feet wide and as long as you need. Give plenty of manure, for Asparagus likes a rich soil. Get plants in the autumn and set them eighteen inches apart each way. The crown of the plants should be about four inches below the earth when finished. Before winter cover the bed with manure four or five inches thick, and rake it off in the spring.

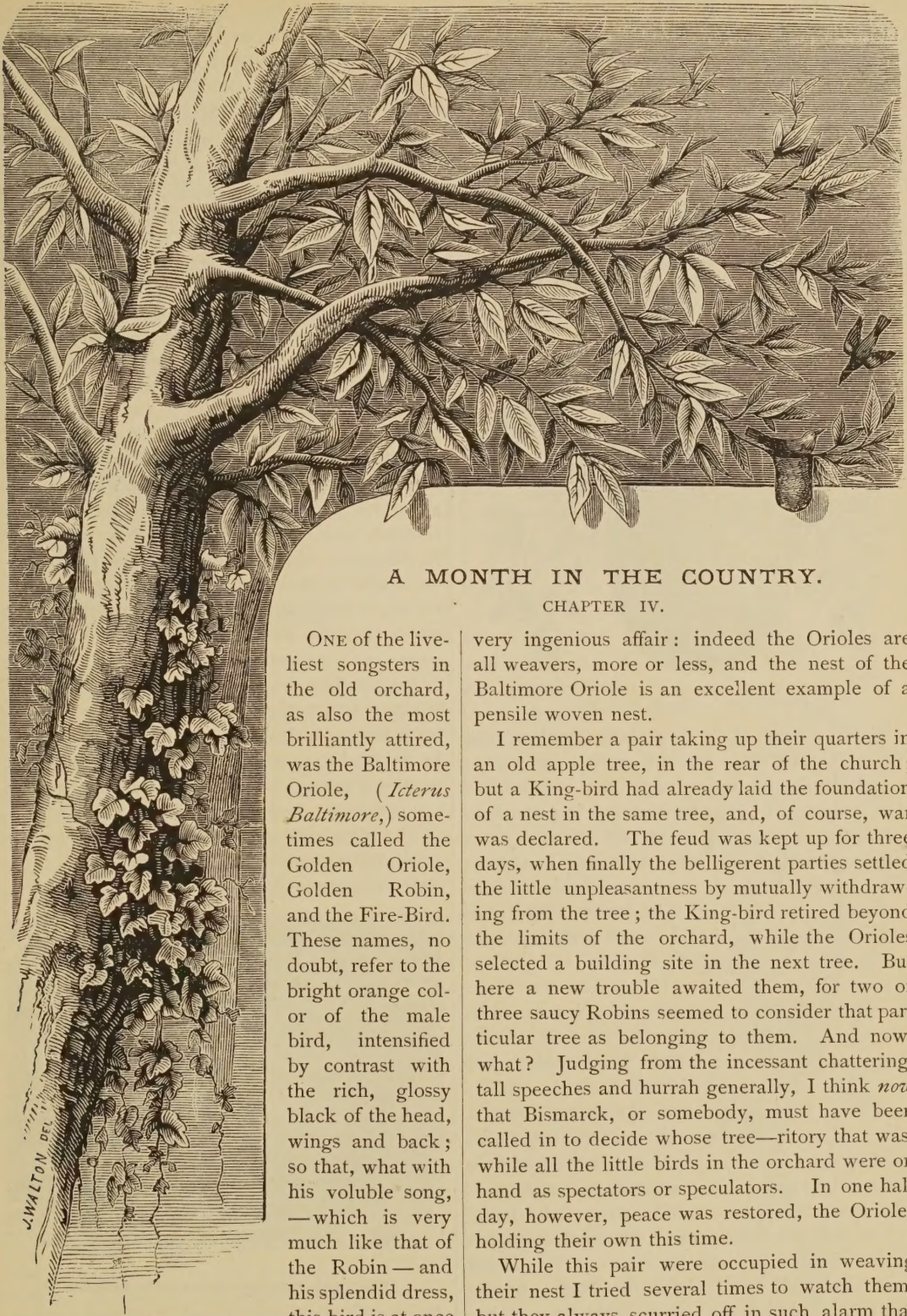
A YOUNG RADISH GROWER.

I have had a garden this year—not just for fun, because I had a little garden a good many times before, where I grew some flowers and plants—but a real money garden. I sowed Radishes this time, and they were real good,—pink and white, and not hot enough to bite your tongue off, but so tender that I could crush them with my fingers, and everybody wanted some; so I sold a good many. Some of the people said I sold them too cheap, but I don't know. I have two dollars and thirty cents, besides I gave a good many Radishes away. If I had known about selling them I could have had more money, but I didn't think about it until people wanted to buy them. There was an old stump just at the edge of my little garden, and I had some Morning Glories running over it, but it had got so rotten we thought it would come out easy; so out it came, and this was where I made my Radish bed, and you ought to have seen them grow. There was plenty of rain and warm weather, and mother said they tasted as if made of rain and sunshine, but I guess there was some of the old stump in them too.—GEORGE W. M.

DON'T STEAL.—A correspondent wishes a word said to the boys about stealing flowers and fruits, especially melons. We have not space to give to this subject now, but will say what we think about it before long. We don't know as the boys are much worse than other folks. We are improving in this respect very rapidly. People are beginning to learn that fruits and flowers are *valuable private property*, that cost money and toil, and are not public spoil. Let everybody recognise this fact, and if you wish anything of the kind belonging to your neighbor offer to purchase, as you would any other property in his possession, or, at least, ask for it as you would ask for any other favor.

Vases.—Why did the plants in a vase I had last year die just as soon as the weather was hot? I have the same vase now, and have put some Geraniums and other plants in it, but father says if it looks as ugly as it did last year I must put it in the back yard.—ELLEN.

Your letter only reached us as we were at work at the last pages of this number of the MAGAZINE, so, of course, we have neither time nor room to say much about the treatment of vases, and will tell the whole story in the next number. Your plants died, no doubt, for want of water—they were just famished. You must remember that a vase contains but a mere handful of earth, which is exposed to drying influences on every side, while in the garden bed the surface only is exposed, and moisture can be drawn from below, or from the surrounding soil.



A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY.

CHAPTER IV.

ONE of the liveliest songsters in the old orchard, as also the most brilliantly attired, was the Baltimore Oriole, (*Icterus Baltimore*), sometimes called the Golden Oriole, Golden Robin, and the Fire-Bird. These names, no doubt, refer to the bright orange color of the male bird, intensified by contrast with the rich, glossy black of the head, wings and back; so that, what with his voluble song,—which is very much like that of the Robin—and his splendid dress, this bird is at once

a very conspicuous visitor. The female is not nearly so gayly robed, and being of a quiet turn of mind, she does not make herself a subject for gossiping neighbors. This bird is also called the Hangnest, because of the peculiar manner in which it builds its nest, which is a

very ingenious affair: indeed the Orioles are all weavers, more or less, and the nest of the Baltimore Oriole is an excellent example of a pensile woven nest.

I remember a pair taking up their quarters in an old apple tree, in the rear of the church; but a King-bird had already laid the foundation of a nest in the same tree, and, of course, war was declared. The feud was kept up for three days, when finally the belligerent parties settled the little unpleasantness by mutually withdrawing from the tree; the King-bird retired beyond the limits of the orchard, while the Orioles selected a building site in the next tree. But here a new trouble awaited them, for two or three saucy Robins seemed to consider that particular tree as belonging to them. And now, what? Judging from the incessant chattering, tall speeches and hurrah generally, I think *now* that Bismarck, or somebody, must have been called in to decide whose tree—ritory that was, while all the little birds in the orchard were on hand as spectators or speculators. In one half day, however, peace was restored, the Orioles holding their own this time.

While this pair were occupied in weaving their nest I tried several times to watch them, but they always scurried off in such alarm that I was afraid they would forsake the place entirely; and so I was denied that pleasure. The eggs were white, with the faintest bluish tint, and sharply scrawled with black, mainly at the larger end, as though some one had taken a fine pen and marked them round and round

in a careless manner, now and then leaving a blot. The nest was a marvel of skill, composed of pieces of string, worsted, grass and fibrous stuff neatly interwoven, till the whole fabric was like an ordinary, good sized purse. It hung from between two small branches, the



BALTIMORE ORIOLES AND NEST.

ends of which had been lapped together with fibrous bark, and was suspended by strings thrust through its upper edges and wound over the branchlets. The Orioles are insect eaters, although they do not object to a few nice cherries occasionally, by way of desert, I suppose. The weaver birds are most common in warmer climates, as in South America, India and Africa, where they build much larger pensile nests than our Orioles, though perhaps not more skillful.

Signor Beccari mentions a very singular bird, the *Amblyornis inornata*, that he met with in his travels on Mount Arfack, New Guinea, and from his description we learn that the *Amblyornis* is a Bird of Paradise, about the size of a Turtle-dove. The specific name refers to its plainness of dress; for it has none of the brilliant colors and curious appendages common to the members of this family, its feathers being of several shades of brown, without any apparent difference between the sexes. The natives sometimes call this bird Buruk Gurea—master bird, not only because of its building tact, but also for its great faculty of imitating the songs and notes of other birds, and thus, like our mocking bird, very often fooling the unwary traveler. It is also called Tukan Robon, which means a gardener. And this is quite appropriate, too; for the bird is not only a ventriloquist

and a house-builder, but also an ornamental gardener, as the following extract from Signor Beccari's description will show.

"The *Amblyornis* selects a flat, even place around the trunk of a small tree, that is as thick and as high as a walking-stick of middle size. It begins by constructing at the base of the tree a kind of a cone, chiefly of moss, of the size of a man's hand. The trunk of the tree becomes the central pillar, and the whole building is supported by it. The height of the pillar is a little less than that of the whole of the hut, not quite reaching two feet. On the top of the central pillar twigs are then methodically placed in a radiating manner, resting on the ground, leaving an aperture for the entrance. Thus is obtained a conical and very regular hut. When the work is complete many other branches are placed transversely in various ways, to make the whole quite firm and permeable. A circular gallery is left between the central cone. The whole is nearly three feet in diameter. All the stems used by the *Amblyornis* are the thin stems of an Orchid (*Dendrobium*), an epiphyte forming large tufts on the mossy branches of great trees, easily bent like straw, and generally about twenty inches long. The stalks had the leaves, which are small and straight, still fresh and living on them; which leads me to conclude that this plant was selected by the bird to prevent rotting and mould in the building, since it keeps alive for a long time, as is so often the case with epiphytical Orchids."

The refinement and good taste of this bird is wonderfully shown in its passion for a neat lawn and floral adornment in front of its resi-

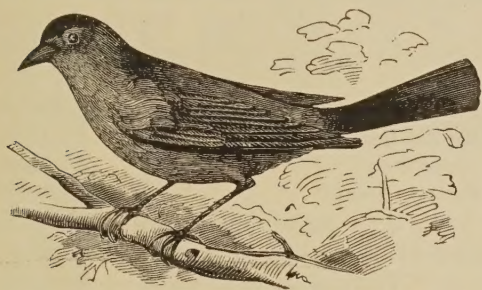


NEST AND GARDEN OF THE BOWER-BIRD.

dence; for, not content with building a house, it spreads before it a beautiful meadow of moss. "This is brought to the spot and kept free from grass, stones, or anything that would offend the eye. On this green turf, flowers and fruits of pretty color are placed so as to form an elegant little garden. The greater part of the decora-

tion is collected round the entrance to the nest, and it would appear that the husband offers there his daily gifts to his wife. The objects are very various, but always of vivid color. There were some fruits of a *Garcinia* like a small-sized apple; others were the fruits of *Gardenias* of a deep yellow color in the interior. I saw also small, rosy fruits, probably of a *Scitaminaceous* plant, and beautiful rosy flowers of a splendid new *Vaccinium* (*Agapetes Amblyornidis*). There were also fungi and mottled insects placed on the turf. As soon as the objects are faded they are removed."

In regard to mimics, however, I do not suppose that any bird surpasses our own Mocking-



THE CAT-BIRD.

bird, *Mimus polyglottus*; and though we do not live in a section of country where they are to be found in their wild or native state, yet the slight acquaintance I have formed with tame specimens makes me long for the woods where the Mocking-bird pipes his song. But in the Cat-bird, *Mimus Carolinensis*, we have a good representative of the family; he is very neat and gentlemanly in his appearance—nothing loud or fussy in his style of dress, for he wears a plain dark suit of gray throughout, with a small black cap to match; his mate is dressed very much like him, and is equally neat in appearance.

You will not hear much from this quiet couple during the day time,—only the well known plaintive "mew" occasionally, so characteristic of these birds, and for which they have received the name of Cat-birds. But if you want to hear the gentleman vindicate his right to his scientific name, first find out the nesting place, which is usually in some low shrubbery; then quietly place yourself in a secluded spot near by at early dawn, and you may observe the songster mount to the higher branches of a neighboring tree and there pour forth a perfect volume of melody,—rich, sweet, gay, pathetic, comic; snatches of song from all the birds around, and, I suppose, spiced now and then with quavers of his own,—the whole performance a medley, which, to a lover of bird music, is highly entertaining.

A pair of Cat-birds built their domicile in a quince bush, near the barn—a rather coarse nest, by the way,—made of small twigs and straw and very shallow—barely deep enough, I thought, to keep the eggs from rolling out. Their complement of eggs, as usual, was three; they were one-fourth smaller than the Robin's, and of a dark bluish-green color.

As I sat under the shade of an apple tree one morning, I noticed a pretty little Yellow bird, *Dendroeca aestiva*, tugging away at something in a decayed stump near by. Of course my curiosity was aroused, and on closer inspection I found a thick net-work of spider cocoons between the loose bark and wood; in a short time this handsome little lady bird carried off the whole of it, and then went to work on the dandelion blows. I was reminded of the children's song when blowing the down away,

"Gran'ma, Gran'ma, pluck your geese,"

and concluded this busy worker was making a downy couch in the berry bushes near the fence; and sure enough, there I found a beautiful, cosy nest almost finished. In due time the eggs appeared, of a very pale greenish-gray ground, spotted, mainly at the larger end, with black. On two successive mornings I removed a Cow-bird's egg from this nest, and thus left it to the rightful owners, who finally reared their little family in peace.

The Yellow bird is one of our summer warblers, and a good one, too. The color of this little favorite is deep yellow, with orange-brown streaks on the breast and back,—very distinct from that of the American Goldfinch or Thistle bird, (*Chrysomitris tristis*), which is a clear lemon yellow, with a black crown, wings and tail, and may be seen in large numbers by the roadsides or in neglected pastures where thistles are allowed to seed, for they have a special liking for thistle seeds and hence they are sometimes called Thistle birds.



YELLOW BIRD'S NEST.

AUTUMN CATALOGUE OF BULBS.—The autumn number of our **FLORAL GUIDE** will be published and ready to send out by the first of August. It will contain descriptions of the best *Hyacinths*, *Tulips*, *Lilies*, *Pæonies*, and all hardy bulbs suitable for planting in the garden in the autumn. Also descriptions of all plants suitable for winter culture in the house, with the best modes of treatment, and instructions for watering, ventilation, etc. Scores of illustrations. All for the postage, a two cent stamp. Those who wish a good show of bulbs in their gardens in the spring, or good flowers in their houses in the winter, must prepare for them in the autumn.

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TO OFFICERS OF STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.—Please notify us at once if you accept our offer of Premiums for Flowers, and also make arrangements to let the people know of our prizes by publishing them in the papers, and your premium lists. Members should see that officers do their duty in this respect. Much disappointment resulted last season from neglect of this simple matter. Many did not learn of these prizes until they were on the Fair Ground.

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VICK'S FLORAL PREMIUMS.

FOR AMATEURS ONLY.

To encourage the culture of Flowers among the people, and particularly among the people who love them and grow them for love alone, I offer **\$40.00 in Cash** for the **Best Show of Flowers** at each and every State Fair in America.

Officers will please announce this Offer in their Premium Lists, and, if possible, still earlier in the Newspapers, so that all may have an opportunity to prepare for the competition.

I authorize the officers of every State and Territorial Agricultural Society in the United States (and where there are two prominent Societies in one State, both,) and the Provinces of Canada, to offer, in my behalf, the following premiums:



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|---|----------------|
| For Best Collection of Cut Flowers, . . | \$20 00 |
| Second Best “ “ . . | 10 00 |
| Third Best “ “ . . | 5 00 |
| Fourth Best “ “ | Floral Chromo. |

The offer is made to amateurs only, and the flowers to be exhibited at the usual Annual Fairs. The awards to be made by the regular Judges, or by any committee appointed for the purpose. When only one collection is exhibited, the Judges may award the first or any other premium, according to merit, but the exhibition must be a creditable one, and if not so, in the opinion of the Judges, no premium to be awarded. The flowers not to be made up in bouquets, but exhibited separate and named, the object being to award the premiums to the flowers, and not for tasteful arrangement. Also,

For the Best Ornamental Floral Work,
(either Bouquet or Floral Ornament,) . . . \$5 00

I shall not consider the offer accepted by any Society, unless published in the regular Premium List, so that all may have an opportunity to compete. The Officers of Societies will please see that **DISINTERESTED** and **COMPETENT JUDGES** are appointed.

We also authorize the Officers of **EVERY COUNTY SOCIETY** in America to offer one of our **FLORAL CHROMOS** for best exhibition of Cut Flowers.

 We make no conditions regarding where seed is purchased, as many have supposed, but must insist that committees award the prizes fairly to **Amateurs**, and not to **professional Gardeners**, or **Gardeners at Gentlemen's Establishments**. 

Officers of Agricultural Societies who accept this offer and give it publicity in the papers and their Premium Lists, will please notify us, and we will publish the fact in our columns. Those from whom we hear nothing we shall consider as having declined to take advantage of our Premiums.